



Notes on Suicide

Original title:

Publisher: Fitzcarraldo Editions, 2015

Genre: Non-Fiction

Pages: 120 pages



Simon Critchley

Notes on Suicide

Suicide is everywhere. It haunts history and current events. It haunts our own networks of friends and family. The spectre of suicide looms large, but the topic is taboo because any meaningful discussion must at the very least consider that the answer to the question – ‘is life worth living?’ – might not be an emphatic yes; it might even be a stern no. Through a sweeping historical overview of suicide, a moving literary survey of famous suicide notes, and a psychological analysis of himself, Simon Critchley offers us an insight into what it means to possess the all too human gift and curse of being of being able to choose life or death.

Five years after its initial publication, this revised edition of Notes on Suicide includes a new preface by the author addressing shifts in the discourse surrounding suicide, particularly in relation to social media.

Suicide is everywhere. It haunts history and current events. It haunts our own networks of friends and family. The spectre of suicide looms large, but the topic is taboo because any meaningful discussion must at the very least consider that the answer to the question – ‘is life worth living?’ – might not be an emphatic yes; it might even be a stern no. Through a sweeping historical overview of suicide, a moving literary survey of famous suicide notes, and a psychological analysis of himself, Simon Critchley offers us an insight into what it means to possess the all too human gift and curse of being of being able to choose life or death.

Five years after its initial publication, this revised edition of Notes on Suicide includes a new preface by the author addressing shifts in the discourse surrounding suicide, particularly in relation to social media.

Judith Butler

Simon Critchley

Simon Critchley is Hans Jonas Professor of Philosophy at the New School for Social Research in New York. His previous books include On Humour, The Book of Dead Philosophers, How to Stop Living and Start Worrying, Impossible Objects, The Mattering of Matter (with Tom McCarthy), The Faith of the Faithless, Stay, Illusion!: The Hamlet Doctrine (with Jamieson Webster), Bowie, and Notes on Suicide (also published by Fitzcarraldo Editions). He is series moderator of ‘The Stone’, a philosophy column in the New York Times, to which he is a frequent contributor.