



The Plain Speaker: The Key Essays

William Hazlitt, Tom Paulin (Editor)

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DESCRIPTION

In this selection from the two-volume *Plain Speaker*, Tom Paulin and Duncan Wu have given priority to essays that address some of the most important critical issues both in romantic studies today and the poetics of prose.

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- Provides the only edition of *The Plain Speaker* available outside libraries since 1928.
- Contains Hazlitt's seminal essays on plain speaking and the major romantic topics.
- Includes a brilliant introduction by Tom Paulin, the greatest poet-critic of his generation and the editorial expertise of Duncan Wu.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Duncan Wu is Reader in English Literature at the University of Glasgow. He is the editor of *Romanticism: An Anthology*, *Women Romantic Poets: An Anthology*, *Romanticism: A Critical reader*, *A Companion to Romanticism*, and *Wordsworth's Five-Book Prelude*, all published by Blackwell. He also edits the *Charles Lamb Bulletin*, and is currently preparing a 9-volume edition of Hazlitt's selected works for publication in 1998.

Tom Paulin is G.M. Young Lecturer in English Literature at Hertford College, Oxford University. His major study of William Hazlitt, *The Day-Star of Liberty: William Hazlitt's Radical Style*, was published in 1998 by Faber and Faber, publishers of his several volumes of poetry, including *Selected Poems 1972-1990*, and of the critical collections *Minotaur: Poetry and the Nation State* (1992) and *Writing to the Moment: Selected Critical Essays 1980-1996*.

FEATURES

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The Plain Speaker: The Key Essays. William Hazlitt. 5.0 out of 5 stars 1.Â The essays of William Hazlitt reveal a personality that ranges from a spectrum of an undiluted general antagonism, to one that shares an affinity with nature and art, and to one that insists on the right to be alone. He writes as if his life were discrete chapters with each one emerging as a finely crafted essay. It would be too easy to conclude that his life was absolutely typical of any one essay as one might be tempted to based on, for example, "On the Pleasure of Hating" that his entire existence was given over to misogyny. Rather, the corpus of his essays depicts a man, often in