ETHICAL JOYCE

Marian Eide argues that the central concern of James Joyce’s writing was the creation of a literary ethics. Eide examines Joyce’s ethical preoccupations throughout his work, particularly the tension between his commitment as an artist and his social obligations as a father and citizen during a tumultuous period of European history. Eide argues that his narrative suggestion that ethics, which etymologically signifies both “character” and “habitat,” might be understood best as an interaction between immediate and intimate processes (character) and more external and enduring structures (habitat). Drawing on feminist theory, Eide focuses on the ideas of alterity and difference. The literary ethics developed in this book proceed from a textual focus in order to examine how our assumptions about what it means to read and interpret produce within each reader an implicit ethical practice. This is the first study devoted to Joyce’s ethical philosophy as it emerges in his writing.

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ETHICAL JOYCE

MARIAN EIDE

Texas A&M University
In memory of
Ellen Olsen Eide
& Stephen Vincent Gilligan
Once the realization is accepted that even between the closest human beings infinite distances continue to exist, a wonderful living side by side can grow up, if they succeed in loving the distance between them which makes it possible for each to see the other whole and against a wide sky.

Rainer Maria Rilke (Letters to a Young Poet)
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Abbreviations

Works frequently cited are listed parenthetically using the following abbreviations:


References are indicated by page number followed by the line number.


