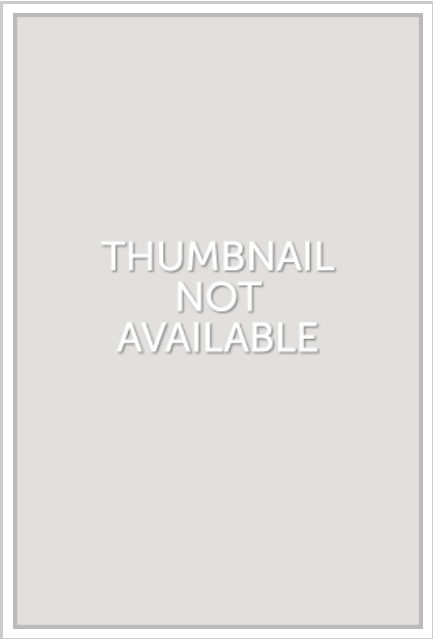


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So Long!: Walt Whitman's Poetry of Death

By Harold Aspiz

The University of Alabama Press. Hardback. Book Condition: new. BRAND NEW, So Long!: Walt Whitman's Poetry of Death, Harold Aspiz, Walt Whitman is unquestionably a great poet of the joys of living. But as Harold Aspiz demonstrates in this study, concerns with death and dying define Whitman's career as a thinker, a poet, and a person. Through a close reading of Leaves of Grass, its constituent poems, particularly "Song of Myself," and Whitman's prose and letters, Aspiz charts how the poet's exuberant celebration of life - the cascade of sounds, sights, and smells that erupt in his verse - is a consequence of his central concern: the ever-presence of death and the prospect of an afterlife. Until now no one has studied as systematically the degree to which mortality informs Whitman's entire enterprise as a poet. So Long! devotes particular attention to Whitman's language and rich artistry in the context of the poet's social and intellectual milieus. We see Whitman (and his many personae) as a folk prophet announcing a gospel of democracy and immortality; pondering death in alternating moods of acceptance and terror; fantasizing his own dying and his postmortem selfhood; yearning for mates and lovers while conscious of...

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