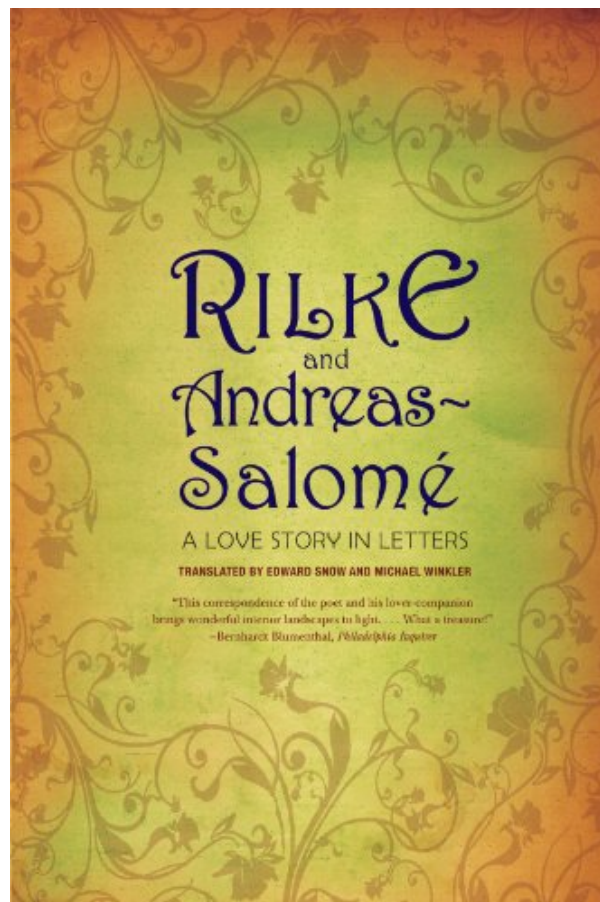
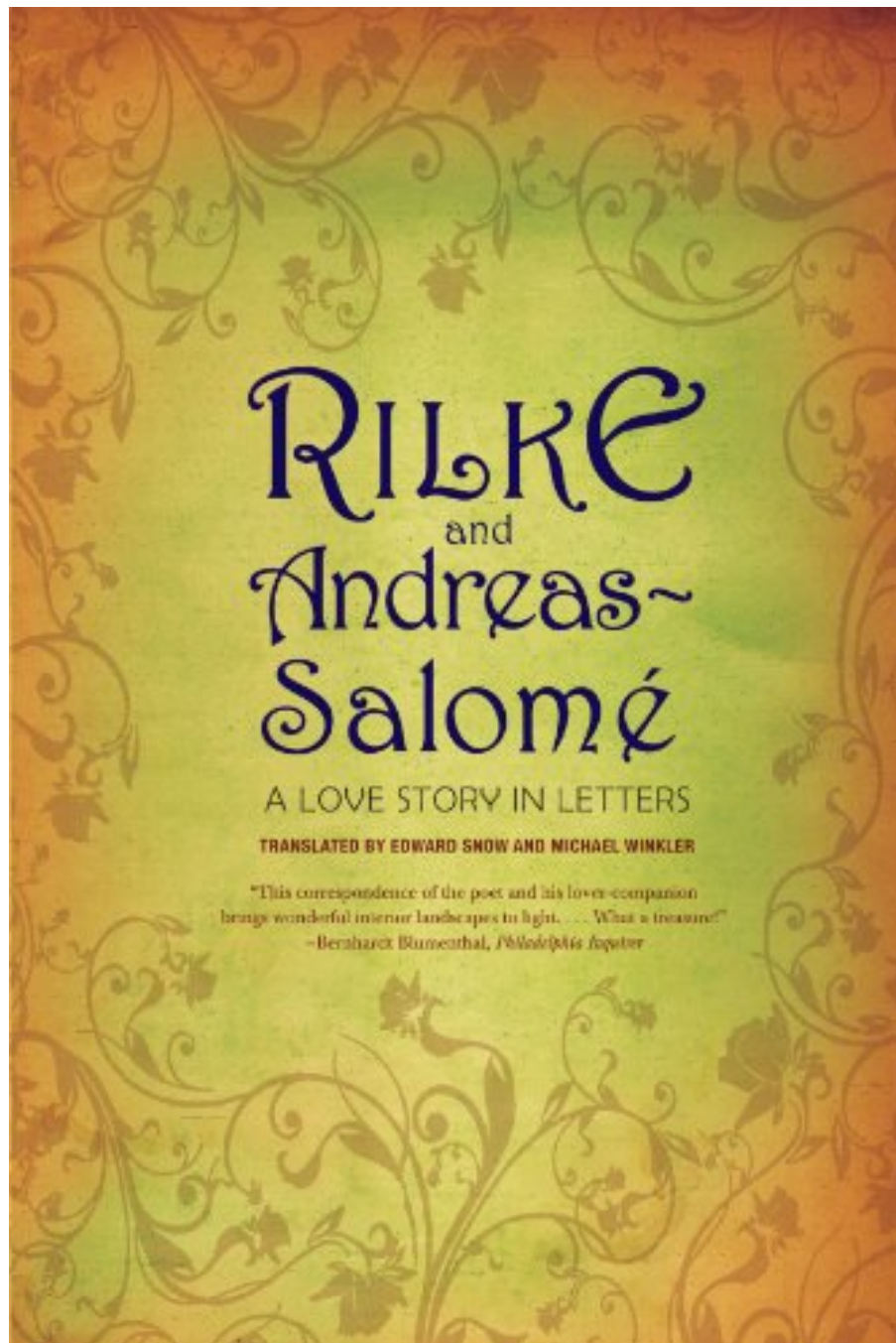


RILKE AND ANDREAS-SALOMÉ: A LOVE STORY IN LETTERS BY RAINER MARIA RILKE, LOU ANDREAS-SALOMÉ



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From Publishers Weekly

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"Immensely readable...a significant piece of scholarship."?Fred Volkmer, New York Sun

He would become one of the most important poets of the twentieth century; she a muse of Europe's fin-de-siècle thinkers and artists. In this collection of letters, a finalist for the PEN USA translation award, the poet Rainer Maria Rilke and Lou Andreas-Salomé, a writer and intellectual fourteen years his senior, pen a relationship that spans thirty years and shifting boundaries: as lovers, as mentor and protégé, and as deep personal and literary allies.

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Most helpful customer reviews

14 of 15 people found the following review helpful.

Beauty and the Bitumen

By D. Laurie

There is no reviewing correspondence. There is present either only the (inevitably) voyeuristic pleasure of gazing into dead mens dreams, or nothing at all, at which point we set the book down, and carry on composing our own secrets.

But the idea of positing a critical eye on one's letters (unless they are means exclusive of a recipient, as with Seneca) seems to me to be entirely ridiculous.

I can only say that I was happy to the point of giddiness to discover the recently published letters between Rilke and Andreas-Salome.

I devoured the book whole, and found myself inspired by Rilke's early uncertainties, and the almost frighteningly composed replies of his one time lover, now become mentor. It offered a glimpse into the world of this beautiful poet, who previously, seemed to have sprung fully formed into the author of the Duino Elegies, as though he were always the master we have come to admire.

And here, beset by dread, here overcome by an almost childish enthusiasm, we find him not stripped of his title rather enriched by his likeness to ourselves. And it's as though we always sensed beneath the richness of his language a kinship we could never adequately define, here at last the inexplicable is made manifest.

I do not speak to Andreas-Salome, she does not move me, but she was a friend of Rilke's and therefore deserves at least our respect.

If you are curious about the genesis and flowering of a poet, you will find no better testament than this collection, and much like the Memoirs of Pablo Neruda, you will find in the simplest relation, a poetry unto itself.

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful.

gorgeous

By TalkingWoman

Rilke lends the same exquisite clarity and rapture to romantic love as he does to his brilliantly tender hearted observations of the spirit.

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful.

Simply amazing.

By Book Lover

Being that this was one of my impulse purchases, I was surprised when I found myself still awake at 4am pouring over the pages, unable to put it down. Rilke invites the reader (Lou Salome) into his innermost thoughts and psyche in such a visceral and eloquent way. You begin to often see yourself in his words and it sends your mind racing. This alone would be enough. But having it countered by Lou's (often paradigm-shifting) deep understanding and almost clinical input - it makes for one of the most intellectual and enlightened dialogues of the 20th century.

This book can feed your soul, if you let it.

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