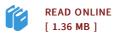# Literary Symbiosis: The Reconfigured Text in Twentieth-Century Writing

By David Cowart

University of Georgia Press, United States, 2012. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 226 x 152 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.Usually literary borrowings are so integrated into the new work as to be disguised; however, according to David Cowart, the last decades of the twentieth century saw an increasing number of texts that attached themselves to their sources in seemingly parasitic-but, more accurately, symbiotic-dependence. It is this kind of mutuality that Cowart examines in his wide-ranging and richly provocative study Literary Symbiosis. In works exhibiting literary symbiosis, Cowart notes, intertextuality surrenders its usual veil of near invisibility to become concrete and explicit-a phenomenon that Cowart sees as part of the postmodern tendency toward self-consciousness and self-reflexivity. He recognizes that literary symbiosis has some close cousins and so limits his compass to works that are genuine reinterpretations, writings that cast a new light on earlier works through some tangible measure of formal or thematic evolution, whether on the part of the guest alone or the host and guest together. Proceeding from this intriguing premise, he offers detailed readings of texts that range from Auden s The Sea and the Mirror, based on The Tempest, to Valerie...

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