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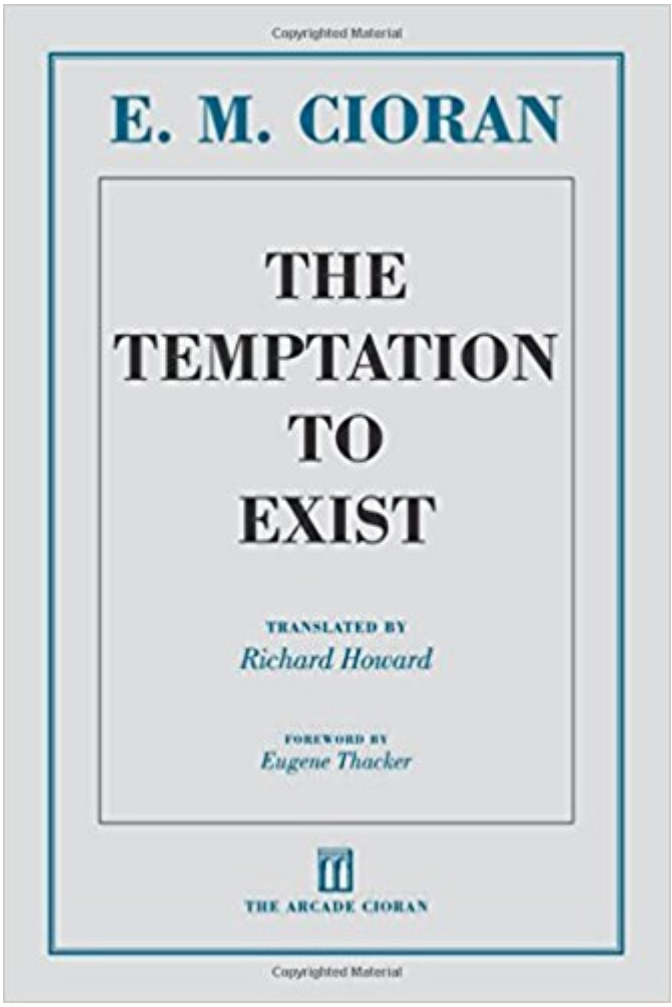
The Temptation To Exist



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Synopsis

This collection of eleven essays originally appeared in France thirty years ago and created a literary whirlwind on the Left Bank. Cioran writes incisively about Western civilizations, the writer, the novel, mystics, apostles, and philosophers.The Temptation to Exist first introduced this brilliant European thinker twenty years ago to American readers, in a superb translation by Richard Howard. This literary mystique around Cioran continues to grow, and The Temptation to Exist has become an underground classic. In this work Cioran writes about Western civilizations, the writer, the novel, about mystics, apostles, philosophers. For those to whom the very word philosophy brings visions of arduous reading, be assured: Cioran is crystal-clear, his style quotable and aphoristic.â œA sort of final philosopher of the Western world. His statements have the compression of poetry and the audacity of cosmic clowningâ •â ”The Washington Post

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Customer Reviews

Emil Cioran suffered from insomnia for years and this twilight state of mind revealed the monstrous nature of everything and so laid the emotional and philosophical foundation for his exquisite rambling on the glum; and so would you, if you couldn’t sleep.Insomnia is a way of perturbing the mind and forcing the insomniac to awaken to the world as it is. Corian this and knew that he saw different.Some people can see further. If you fly over your home-town, on Google Earth, you notice the higher vantage point straight away. You would never have guessed that there where so many trees surrounding your hometown if you stayed on Earth. Zoom out a little and the view becomes higher. Now you see mountains and seas. You apprehend more because you are high. When you

come back down, try explaining what you have seen to your friends. Chances are, if your friends have never risen to those heights themselves, they won't believe you. You will then get thrown into the cooking pot!Corian flew too high and they dragged him back down. he looked down into the insomnia flash, he witnessed grandeurs beyond grandeurs, chasms over chasms, deeps beyond deeps. Just like in mathematics where there are infinitudes of higher orders infinitely transcending lower infinities, so the phenomenon of consciousness can no longer be confined to the play pen we exist inside. Rather, your consciousness is a revelation of infinities overlapping your normal, hum-drum, pay that mortgage, monkey mind.SO, Corian argued, rest are sleepers.

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