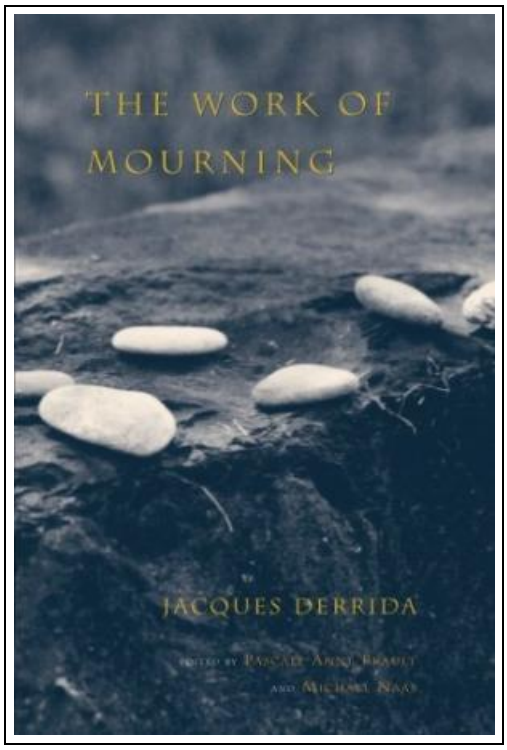
# The Work of Mourning

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# THE WORK OF MOURNING

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University Of Chicago Press. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Paperback. 272 pages. Dimensions: 8.9in. x 5.9in. x 0.6in.Jacques Derrida is, in the words of the New York Times, perhaps the worlds most famous philosopherif not the only famous philosopher. He often provokes controversy as soon as his name is mentioned. But he also inspires the respect that comes from an illustrious career, and, among many who were his colleagues and peers, he inspired friendship. The Work of Mourning is a collection that honors those friendships in the wake of passing. Gathered here are textsletters of condolence, memorial essays, eulogies, funeral orationswritten after the deaths of well-known figures: Roland Barthes, Paul de Man, Michel Foucault, Louis Althusser, Edmond Jabs, Louis Marin, Sarah Kofman, Gilles Deleuze, Emmanuel Levinas, Jean-Franois Lyotard, Max Loreau, Jean-Marie Benoist, Joseph Riddel, and Michel Servire. With his words, Derrida bears witness to the singularity of a friendship and to the absolute uniqueness of each relationship. In each case, he is acutely aware of the questions of tact, taste, and ethical responsibility involved in speaking of the deadthe risks of using the occasion for ones own purposes, political calculation, personal vendetta, and the expiation of guilt. More than a collection of memorial addresses, this volume sheds light not only on Derridas relation to some of the most prominent French thinkers of the past quarter century but also on some of the most important themes of Derridas entire oeuvre-mourning, the gift of death, time, memory, and friendship itself. In his rapt attention to his subjects work and their influence upon him, the book also offers a hesitant and tangential retelling of Derridas own life in French philosophical history. There are illuminating and playful anecdoteshow Lyotard led Derrida to begin using a word-processor; how Paul de Man talked knowledgeably of jazz with...

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