Selections from the Prose & Poetical Works of Alfred de Musset - Alfred de Musset - 1886
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First published in 1914, this book contains selections, in poetry and prose, from French Romantic writers. These selections serve to illustrate the theories put forward in a companion volume, The Romantic Movement in French Literature (1910). As a general rule, verse pieces are included in their entirety, although an exception is made in the case of a well-known passage from Victor Hugo's "Rêpons un acte d'accusation." Prose selections are presented in the original French. This carefully compiled text will be of value to anyone with an interest in French literature and Romanticism.

Ross Chambers, an eminent critic of French literature, proposes an original theory of the development of French modernism. His bold re-reading of mid-nineteenth-century texts, from Madame Bovary to Les Fleurs du mal, leads to a reconceptualization of the workings of narrative - in themselves and in relation to history. Chambers makes a distinction between a text's formal mode of address (narrative function) and the reflexive devices by which it invites interpretation (textual function). The works he considers reveal a discontinuity or disjunction between these two functions and as a result seem uncentered, their manner of conveying meaning oddly blurred. In this they recall the general malaise that swept through French society in the wake of the failed revolution of 1848. Chambers shows how the internal opposition of narrative and textual function, often read as a willful resistance to this historical sensus, is actually its symptom. Pursuing this argument through works by Flaubert, Nerval, Baudelaire, Gautier, and Hugo, Chambers uses theoretical insights to illuminate textual details, which in turn clarify and advance his theory. The process yields a subtle and compelling meditation on the powers of writing and reading, which contributes significantly to the debate about the historical status of literary texts. At the heart of the book is the concept of oppositionality; in this respect The Writing of Melancholy is both a necessary and reading, which contributes significantly to the debate about the historical status of literary texts. At the heart of the book is the concept of oppositionality; in this respect The Writing of Melancholy is both a necessary

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