



Understanding Brecht

By Stanley Mitchell, Walter Benjamin, Anna Bostock

Verso Books. Paperback. Book Condition: new. BRAND NEW, Understanding Brecht, Stanley Mitchell, Walter Benjamin, Anna Bostock, The relationship between philosopher-critic Walter Benjamin and playwright-poet Bertolt Brecht was both a lasting friendship and a powerful intellectual partnership. Having met in the late 1920s in Germany, Benjamin and Brecht both independently minded Marxists with a deep understanding of and passionate commitment to the emancipatory potential of cultural practices continued to discuss, argue and correspond on topics as varied as Fascism and the work of Franz Kafka. Faced by the onset of the 'midnight of the century', with the Nazi subversion of the Weimar Republic in Germany and the Stalinist degeneration of the revolution in Russia, both men, in their own way, strove to keep alive the tradition of dialectical critique of the existing order and radical intervention in the world to transform it. In Understanding Brecht we find collected together Benjamin's most sensitive and probing writing on the dramatic and poetic work of his friend and tutor. Stimulated by Brecht's oeuvre and theorising his particular dramatic techniques - such as the famous 'estrangement effect' - Benjamin developed his own ideas about the role of art and the artist in crisis-ridden society. This...



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