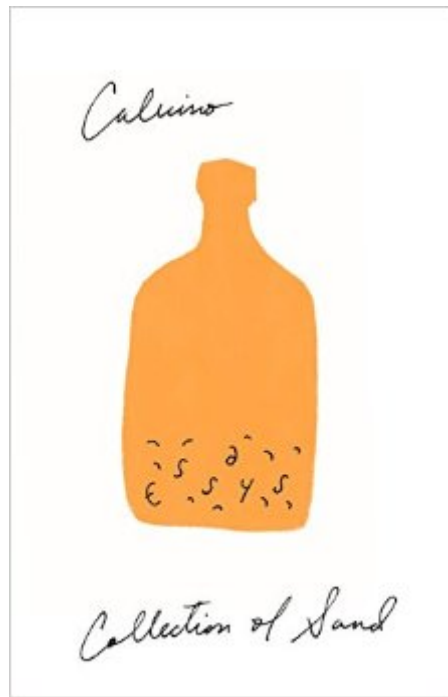


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Collection Of Sand



Synopsis

“Just like every collection, this one is a diary as well: a diary of travels, of course, but also of feelings, states of mind, moods . . . The fascination of a collection lies just as much in what it reveals as in what it conceals of the secret urge that led to its creation.” — from *Collection of Sand* by Italo Calvino

Calvino’s unbounded curiosity and masterly imagination are displayed in peak form in *Collection of Sand*, the last of his works published during his lifetime. Here he applies his graceful intellect to the delights of the visual world, in essays on subjects ranging from cuneiform and antique maps to Mexican temples and Japanese gardens. Never before translated into English, *Collection of Sand* is an incisive and often surprising meditation on observation and knowledge, the difference between the world as we perceive it and the world as it is. “Beautifully translated by Martin McLaughlin . . . To read [*Collection of Sand*] is to enter the presence of an exceptionally fervent and fertile mind . . . A brilliant collection that may change the way you see the world around you.” — PD Smith, *Guardian*

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

There can be no doubt that the world lost one of its greatest and most entertaining essayists with

the untimely death of Italo Calvino as this collection of essays so admirably demonstrates. These essays reaffirm that the Renaissance man did not become extinct with the end of that period. Italo Calvino is that unique essayist who had an encyclopedic knowledge and a talent to make his interests, observations, and conclusions so captivating, that the reader almost loses sight of his profundity. At the same time, he never falls into dilettantism as we follow his thinking. Who would describe the image of Ahura Mazda as a "pilot sitting in a cockpit of a plane? Who can make a piece about archaeological diggings of a pig farm from ancient Roman times seem, well timely? Who can take the topic of graffiti and the city and turn it into a journey that takes us from ancient cities, to medieval cities, to the present day that is not pedantic but insightful and topical. The true joy of such a collection is in reading a chapter in each section and making your own conclusions as to why they are cataloged in such a manner, or simply bouncing erratically from essay to essay according to your personal whims. Less we fall into a melancholic miasma of loss at this writer's death, it is reassuring to know that he has left us with a wealth of footnotes and references for us to begin our own journeys. A brilliant coda to a remarkable career.

Brilliant as always

I love the way he writes he was a great story teller. A must buy because I find his work so great and also so interesting, he is never boring.

The traveling part is especially interesting, Japan I mean. Previously two parts are a bit boring and abstract. All in all good writing.

Reading these stories is like having Calvino for a house guest. They are honest, intimate thoughts.

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