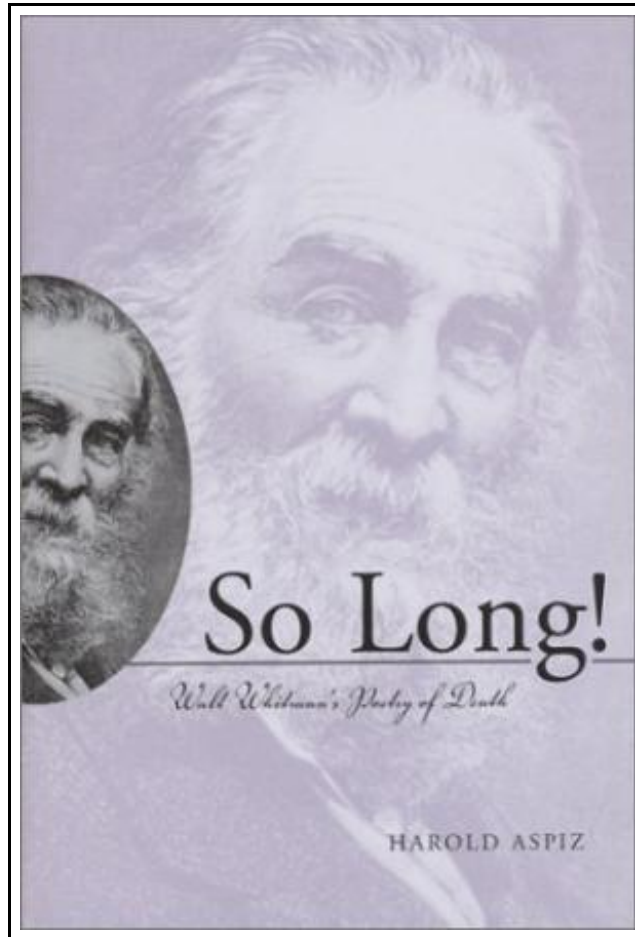


So Long!: Walt Whitman's Poetry of Death



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Reviews

This ebook is worth acquiring. Better then never, though i am quite late in start reading this one. You will not truly feel monotony at at any time of your own time (that's what catalogues are for about if you ask me).

(Lorenz Vandervort)

SO LONG!: WALT WHITMAN'S POETRY OF DEATH

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The University of Alabama Press. Hardback. Book Condition: new. BRAND NEW, So Long!: Walt Whitman's Poetry of Death, Harold Aspiz, Walt Whitman is unquestionably a great poet of the joys of living. But as Harold Aspiz demonstrates in this study, concerns with death and dying define Whitman's career as a thinker, a poet, and a person. Through a close reading of *Leaves of Grass*, its constituent poems, particularly "Song of Myself," and Whitman's prose and letters, Aspiz charts how the poet's exuberant celebration of life - the cascade of sounds, sights, and smells that erupt in his verse - is a consequence of his central concern: the ever-presence of death and the prospect of an afterlife. Until now no one has studied as systematically the degree to which mortality informs Whitman's entire enterprise as a poet. *So Long!* devotes particular attention to Whitman's language and rich artistry in the context of the poet's social and intellectual milieu. We see Whitman (and his many personae) as a folk prophet announcing a gospel of democracy and immortality; pondering death in alternating moods of acceptance and terror; fantasizing his own dying and his postmortem selfhood; yearning for mates and lovers while conscious of fallible flesh; agonizing over the omnipresence of death in wartime; patiently awaiting death; and launching imaginary journeys toward immortality and godhood. *So Long!* is valuable for American literature collections, students and scholars of Whitman and 19th-century literature, and general readers interested in Whitman and poetry. By exploring Whitman's faith in death as a meaningful experience, we may understand better how the poet - whether personified as representative man, victim, hero, lover, or visionary - lived so completely on the edge of life.

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