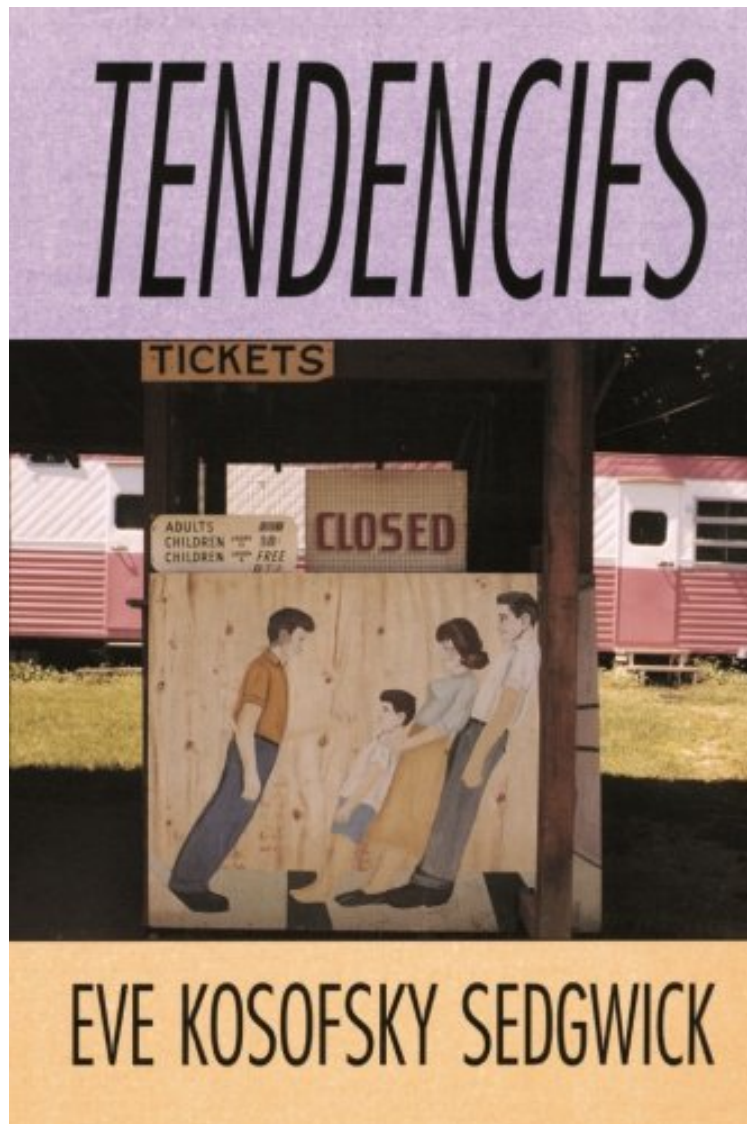


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Tendencies (Series Q)

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#414689 in Books Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick 1993-10-28 1993-10-28 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.00 x .75 x 6.00l, 1.13 #File Name: 0822314215304 pages Tendencies | File size: 61.Mb

Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick : Tendencies (Series Q) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Tendencies (Series Q):

0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Corinne E. Blackmer Sedgwick is a brilliant and original mind.

Tendencies brings together for the first time the essays that have made Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick "the soft-spoken queen of gay studies" (Rolling Stone). Combining poetry, wit, polemic, and dazzling scholarship with memorial and

autobiography, these essays have set new standards of passion and truthfulness for current theoretical writing. The essays range from Diderot, Oscar Wilde, and Henry James to queer kids and twelve-step programs; from "Jane Austen and the Masturbating Girl" to a performance piece on Divine written with Michael Moon; from political correctness and the poetics of spanking to the experience of breast cancer in a world ravaged and reshaped by AIDS. What unites *Tendencies* is a vision of a new queer politics and thought that, however demanding and dangerous, can also be intent, inclusive, writerly, physical, and sometimes giddily fun.

From Publishers Weekly A leading practitioner of gay studies, Sedgwick (*The Epistemology of the Closet*) offers an illuminating and provocative collection of essays, many reprinted from academic journals, on subjects as varied as the politics of health care, the popularization of "queer theory" as an academic discipline (and its harassment by PC-bashing journalists) and Sedgwick's own diagnosis and treatment for breast cancer. Sedgwick turns an unflinching eye on the dynamics of gender and identity that fail to fall into neat, heterosexual categories. She contends that the literature of James, Wilde and Cather call for a reading that is sensitive to the dissonances and ironies of a love that dare not speak its name; she interrogates the "naturalness" of heterosexual identity in literature and popular culture. The opening essay, for instance, invokes "the utopian bedroom scene of Chuck Berry's immortal aubade: 'Roll over, Beethoven, and tell Tchaikovsky the news.'" Though steeped in the jargon of academic cultural studies, Sedgwick's essays offer forthright cultural analysis and an autobiographical intimacy that will prove accessible and germane for a general audience. Copyright 1993 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal This collection of essays is a meditation on sexuality in literature and life and on the artificial categories imposed on people because of their sexual orientation. The idea that the "two available categories (heterosexual and homosexual) are not symmetrically but hierarchically constituted in relation to each other" is just one of the brilliant thoughts Sedgwick has to offer in examining the works of Jane Austen, Oscar Wilde, Diderot, and Willa Cather. What she has to say deserves attention, but the ideas presented here will remain inaccessible to all but a handful of Sedgwick's own colleagues. Her writing is witty yet turgid, and the essays overall are slow and difficult reading. This first volume in a new series focusing on the theoretical aspects of gay and lesbian studies is not recommended except for special collections. Sedgwick (*Between Men*, Columbia Univ. Pr., 1986) is Newman Ivey White Professor of English at Duke.- Patricia Sarles, Brooklyn P.L. Copyright 1993 Reed Business Information, Inc. "Because of the polymorphousness of its disciplinary perversity, *Tendencies*, taken together with Sedgwick's two previous books, virtually defines the new field of queer studies. The opulent availability of an embodied self who also happens to be a brilliant reader marks Sedgwick's effort throughout this volume. It is also what allows one the tutelary space for taking, not only pleasure from her work, but courage from her example." James Creech, author of *Closet Writing/Gay Reading*