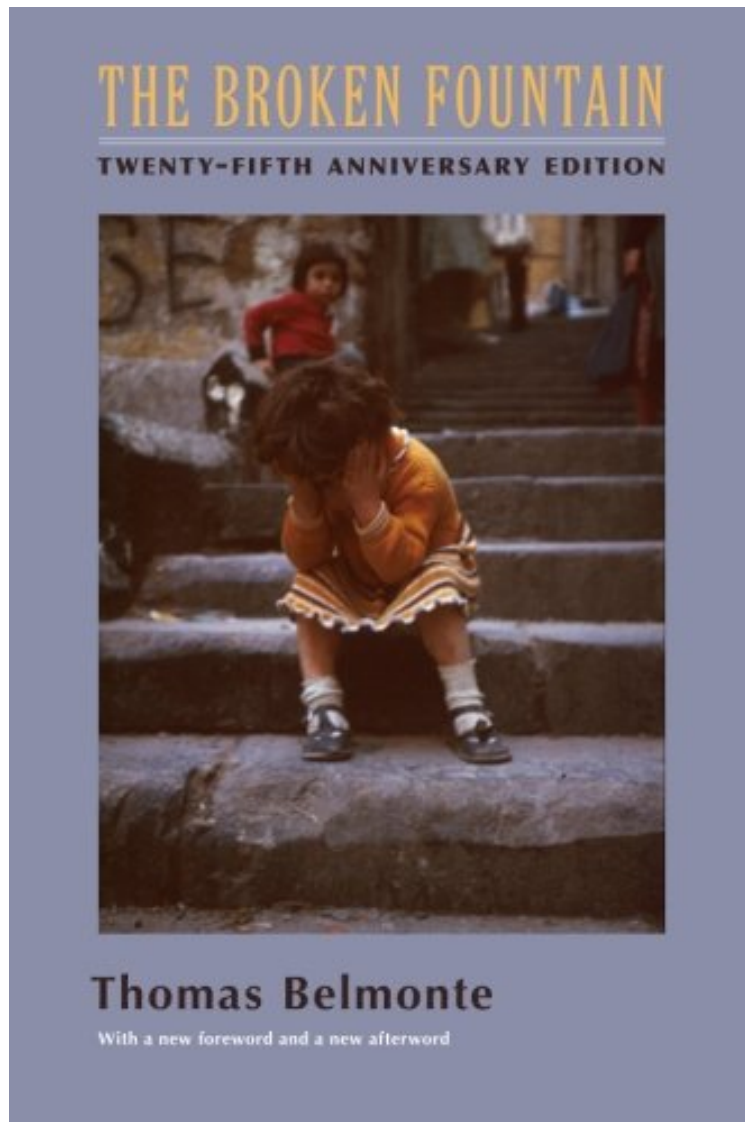


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The Broken Fountain (Columbia Classics in Anthropology)

Thomas Belmonte

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Thomas Belmonte : The Broken Fountain (Columbia Classics in Anthropology) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Broken Fountain (Columbia Classics in Anthropology):

As Ida Susser writes in reference to Belmonte's Broken Fountain, "good ethnographies have long lives." This classic

of urban anthropology, one of the most acclaimed ethnographies of recent years, offers vivid, literary descriptions of Fontana del Re, an impoverished Neapolitan neighborhood. Belmonte documents the struggles of Neapolitans surrounded by crumbling buildings and economic insecurity. He details family dynamics as well as the working of Naples's informal economy, the day-to-day struggle for economic subsistence, and the intermittent begging and thieving of the young. Taking us from the bustling, vibrant, and gritty streets and alleyways of Naples to the kitchen tables of poor Neapolitan homes, Belmonte resists simplistic depictions of the poor. Instead, he presents subtle, compelling portraits and analyses that capture the emotional, social, and economic lives of his subjects. In addition to the continuing relevance of his insights into the effects of poverty, Belmonte's willingness to reflect on his own reactions and emotions while in the field has influenced a generation of scholars. In *The Broken Fountain*, he poignantly describes the experience of living alone in a strange urban environment and his interactions with the residents of Fontana del Re. This edition includes a foreword by Ida Susser and an afterword by Pellegrino D'Acerno and Stanislao G. Pugliese.