



Literature is anti-suicide

INTERVIEWER

What do you think studying literature is good for? What is the most important reason, for you, to write and read fiction? Or why does one publish?

BEILIN

I think it's about friendship, connection, affinity. And really, to be blatant, it's anti-suicide. When I read Violette Leduc—when I read her brazen brain full of beaks and throbbing birds, of paradise, when she grinds her elbow into her writing desk, and cycles through worship and renunciation like a demon—I know that it is okay for me to exist. And when a writer friend asks after my work, or shares their work with me, or when they literally shelter me for months or years, I have a place on this earth. Language—pursuing it—can give you a life. Why does literature need to be about teaching the masses how to empathize? That's not even realistic. Who are these masses who are clumping around pieces of literature, I mean, besides a blatantly fascistic literature? No, the people you will write for will be the people who are seeking you. Your friends, or friends to your mind and your language, maybe even to your cause. That is good enough.

Newer

Older

13th February 2025

for Heaven's sake

11th February 2025

for ourselves and others alike

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