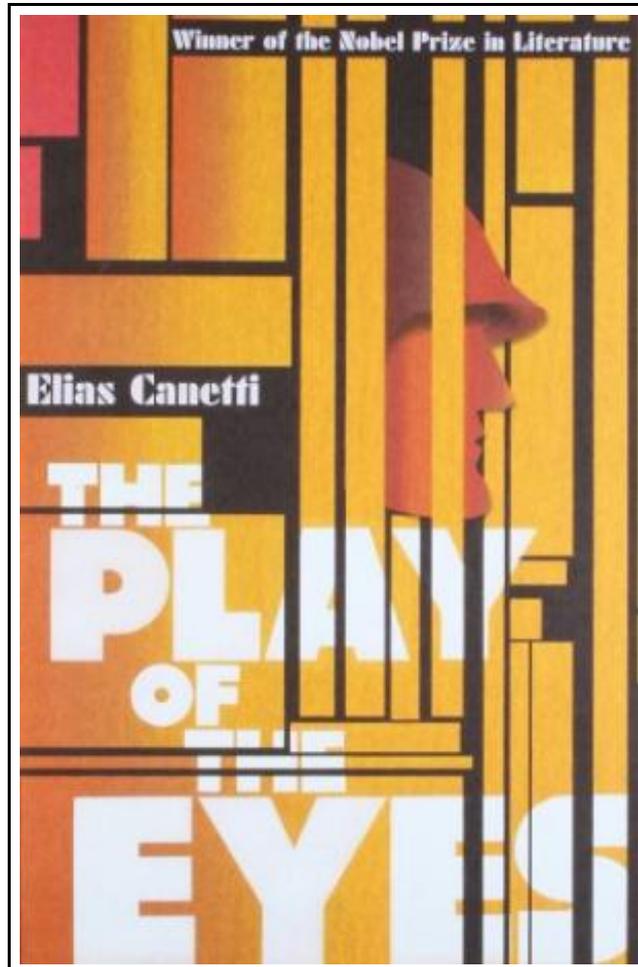


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Reviews

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Granta. 1 Paperback(s), 2011. soft. Book Condition: New. This third memoir from Nobel Prize winner Elias Canetti (1905-94) is set in Vienna between 1931 and 1937, years when Hitler's rise to power already clear to anyone with eyes to see as approaching its horrifying climax. Sharp and deft, the author sketches his friends and rivals during this period: the Jewish modernists Hermann Broch and Robert Musil, the sculptor Fritz Wotruba, the composer Alban Berg, and the beautiful socialite Alma Mahler. Canetti brings these legends to life for modern readers, while at the core of the book is Canetti's friendship with the mysterious Doctor Sonne, a mentor whose effect on his life and work was enormous. Canetti was a polymath and one of the major intellectual figures of the 20th century. He is renowned for his novel *Auto-da-Fé* and his work of social theory *Crowds and Power*, as well as his volumes of autobiography. "The Play of the Eyes (originally published in German in 1985) is the third volume of Canetti's wonderfully readable memoirs and covers his years in Vienna from the late 1920s to the mid-1930s. With satiric flair and touching honesty Canetti depicts his development as a writer and his relationship with figures such as Broch, Musil, Dr. Sonne (his intellectual mentor), Wotruba, and Alma Mahler and her daughter Anna who inspired the book's title. What emerges is a compelling tableau of the artistic and literary life of Vienna before the Anschluss. The translation aptly conveys the energy and humor of the original text." *Library Journal* 329.



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