



What Is Pastoral?

By Paul Alpers

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One of the enduring traditions of Western literary history, pastoral is often mischaracterized as a catchall for literature about rural themes and nature in general. In *What Is Pastoral?*, distinguished literary historian Paul Alpers argues that pastoral is based upon a fundamental fiction—that the lives of shepherds or other socially humble figures represent the lives of human beings in general.

Ranging from Virgil's *Eclogues* to Sarah Orne Jewett's *The Country of the Pointed Firs*, from Shakespeare and Cervantes to Hardy and Frost, this work brings the story of the pastoral tradition, previously limited to classical and Renaissance literature, into the twentieth century. Pastoral reemerges in this account not as a vehicle of nostalgia for some Golden Age, nor of escape to idyllic landscapes, but as a mode bearing witness to the possibilities and problems of human community and shared experience in the real world.

A rich and engrossing book, *What Is Pastoral?* will soon take its place as the definitive study of pastoral literature.

"Alpers succeeds brilliantly. . . . [He] offers . . . a wealth of new insight into the origins, development, and flowering of the pastoral."—Ann-Maria Contarino, *Renaissance Quarterly*

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Editorial Review

From the Back Cover

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Beatrice Pearson:

Do you one of people who can't read enjoyable if the sentence chained in the straightway, hold on guys that aren't like that. This *What Is Pastoral?* book is readable by means of you who hate those perfect word style. You will find the facts here are arrange for enjoyable reading through experience without leaving even decrease the knowledge that want to offer to you. The writer involving *What Is Pastoral?* content conveys prospect easily to understand by many people. The printed and e-book are not different in the articles but it just different by means of it. So , do you nonetheless thinking *What Is Pastoral?* is not loveable to be your top listing reading book?

Therese Webb:

Nowadays reading books be than want or need but also work as a life style. This reading habit give you lot of advantages. The advantages you got of course the knowledge your information inside the book this improve your knowledge and information. The info you get based on what kind of guide you read, if you want send more knowledge just go with education and learning books but if you want really feel happy read one using theme for entertaining such as comic or novel. The particular *What Is Pastoral?* is kind of publication which is giving the reader unstable experience.

Elizabeth Johannes:

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fantastic author who also write the book in such incredible way makes the content inside easier to understand, entertaining means but still convey the meaning thoroughly. So , it is good for you because of not hesitating having this nowadays or you going to regret it. This excellent book will give you a lot of advantages than the other book possess such as help improving your proficiency and your critical thinking method. So , still want to delay having that book? If I ended up you I will go to the book store hurriedly.

Elizabeth McNeal:

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