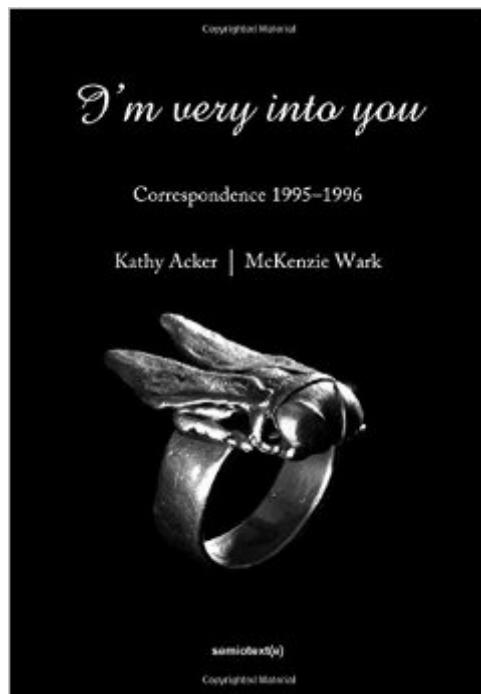


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# I'm Very Into You: Correspondence 1995--1996 (Semiotext(e))



## Synopsis

"Why am I telling you all this? Partly 'cause the whole queerness/identity thing for me stretches through everything, absolutely everything. Slipping between straight/gay is child's play compared to slipping between writer/teacher/influence-peddler whatever. I forget who I am. You reminded me of who I prefer to be." [M.W.] "It's two in the morning... I know what you mean about slipping roles: I love it, going high low, power helpless even captive, male female, all over the place, space totally together and brain-sharp, if it wasn't for play I'd be bored stiff and I think boredom is the emotion I find most unbearable..." [KA] -- from *I'm Very into You* After Kathy Acker met McKenzie Wark on a trip to Australia in 1995, they had a brief fling and immediately began a heated two-week email correspondence. Their emails shimmer with insight, gossip, sex, and cultural commentary. They write in a frenzy, several times a day; their emails cross somewhere over the International Date Line, and themselves become a site of analysis. What results is an index of how two brilliant and idiosyncratic writers might go about a courtship across 7,500 miles of airspace -- by pulling in Alfred Hitchcock, stuffed animals, Georges Bataille, Elvis Presley, phenomenology, Marxism, The X-files, psychoanalysis, and the I Ching. Their correspondence is a Plato's Symposium for the twenty-first century, but written for queers, transsexuals, nerds, and book geeks. *I'm Very Into You* is a text of incipience, a text of beginnings, and a set of notes on the short, shared passage of two iconic individuals of our time.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The Olsen twins star in this great tale of halloween adventure. Their family is going through some tuff financial trubles and may lose their house so they turn to the only member of the family with any money- a cruel aunt. Upon arrival they are immediately dismissed- but the young twins presence frightens the mean aunt because she was once a twin herself and she did something very horrible to her own twin. See- their cruel aunt is a witch and used a spell to make her twin vanish and now its up to mary kate and ashley to uncover the plot and save someone they have never met. They find help with a little person and a grave digger and set off around the town trying to learn more about their evil aunt's witches coven. Great for all families with younger children and worth many watches.

I picked this book up at my local bookstore on a whim. I didn't know anything about Acker or Wark beforehand, so I suppose you could say I was unburdened by negative bias towards the authors. The foreward by Acker's friend and executor (in the will sense), Matias Viegener, was a nice little piece of lit in and of itself. I love this phrase: "In the exchange between Acker and Wark, we see the reciprocal machinery of introjection and projection." I actually reread Viegener's foreword after I finished the book, as I found it infinitely more insightful and readable than the epilogue "whose author seems unbecomingly proud of his feeble punning when he coins the term 'e-pistolary' (Get it?! They're emails!) and I didn't want to end on a low note. The format is interesting and effective. At times, Kathy and Ken maintain multiple email chains, so there is this layering and expansion of conversational threads over time, of tangents and interpretations, that provide the perfect spacial/structural expression to two smart people's neural networks connecting and firing. As a reader, you get to observe the pair negotiate the boundaries of their newfound intimacy in an ultimately pretty staid, but intellectually charged courting ritual. They cover a lot of ground, from Portishead to Pasolini, and if nothing else will leave a reader with lots of Wikipedia-ing to do. To paraphrase Viegener less eloquently, it's like watching brainy people flirt. What's interesting is that even when the conversation turns prurient (fisting, anyone?), it reads like a red herring: what emerges at the core is two (pretty polite) people isolated by their own intellect, clearly thrilled at the opportunity for self-disclosure and the emergence of a common "territory" over which to commune. (The sex stuff is often just oblique provocation.) Ken and Kathy are both thoughtful and well-mannered, sensitive to not "trespass" on the other ("Write me your vertigo, it will be safe with me," Ken replies gently after Kathy apologizes for her emotional overspill) because intimacy has not yet bred contempt. Despite the inclination to write them off on the basis of the reductive reputations that precede/succeed them (punks, obscurantists, whatever), there is a

familiar and rather endearing humanity at play here.

I'm Very Into This Book. Highly recommended.

this book is ment to make you feel awkward because you havent read something so light and delightful before. this book is so light and flirty and i totally recommend this book for people who are tired for those cliche , campy , romance novels. this book is a breath of fresh air .

Ken Wark had the relationship with Kathy Acker that so many people would have liked to have. This correspondence sheds new light on both authors and upon the world in which we live.

Fantastic book. Interesting perspective on queer issues juxtaposed to the early possibilities of online communication.

This is simply a wonderful book and great document.

This book is wonderful, period.

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