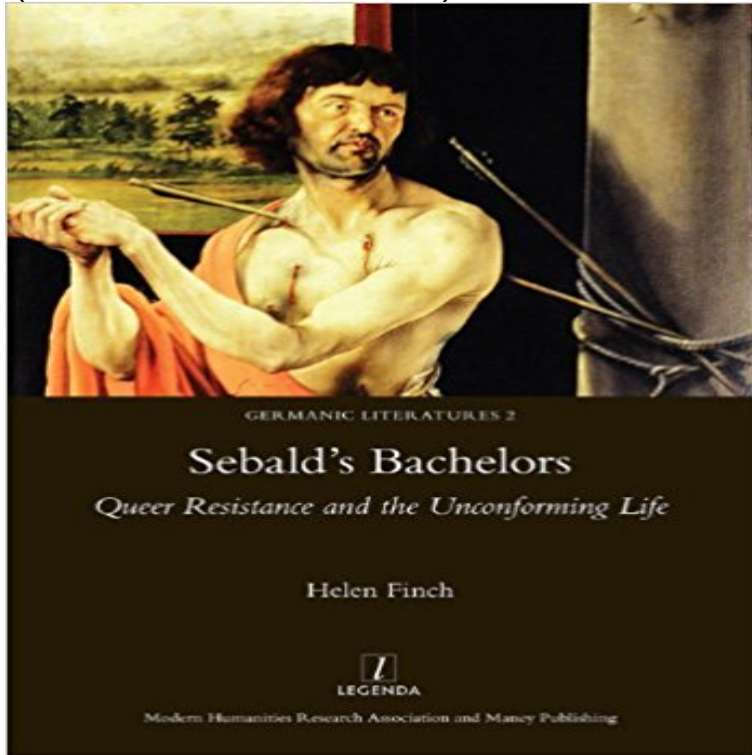


# Sebalds Bachelors: Queer Resistance and the Unconforming Life (Germanic Literatures)



Why do queer bachelors and homosexual desire haunt the works of the German writer W. G. Sebald (1944-2001)? In a series of readings of Sebalds major texts, from *After Nature* to *Austerlitz*, Helen Finchs pioneering study shows that alternative masculinities subvert catastrophe in Sebalds works. From the schizophrenic poet Ernst Herbeck to the alluring shade of Kafka in Venice, the figure of the bachelor offers a form of resistance to the destructive course of history throughout Sebalds critical and literary writing. Sebalds poetics of homosexual desire trace a line of flight away from the patriarchal and repressive order of German society, which, in Sebalds view, led to the disasters of Nazism. This study shows that the potential for subversion personified by Sebalds solitary males is essential for understanding his celebrated work, while also demonstrating the contribution that Sebald made to the German tradition of queer writing.

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