



## In Quest of the Ordinary: Lines of Skepticism and Romanticism

By Stanley Cavell

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These lectures by one of the most influential and original philosophers of the twentieth century constitute a sustained argument for the philosophical basis of romanticism, particularly in its American rendering. Through his examination of such authors as Emerson, Thoreau, Poe, Wordsworth, and Coleridge, Stanley Cavell shows that romanticism and American transcendentalism represent a serious philosophical response to the challenge of skepticism that underlies the writings of Wittgenstein and Austin on ordinary language.

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### Editorial Review

#### From Library Journal

Univ. of Chicago Pr. Jan. 1989. c.184p. bibliog. index. LC 88-22651. ISBN 0-226-09817-6. \$19.95. phil ~ In these seven lectures, Harvard professor Cavell continues the development of his thoughts on the "everyday," first addressed by Wittgenstein, Austin, Thoreau, and Emerson, and on the romanticism of Coleridge, Wordsworth, and Shakespeare. As always, Cavell's own thoughts are careful revelations of a creative understanding of the nexus between philosophy and literature. The original audience to these lectures, academics and scholars in transcendental philosophy or romantic literature, will undoubtedly be the happiest readers of the text presented here. Recommended for most academic libraries and to other libraries with strong collections in the humanities. Francisca Goldsmith, Golden Gate Univ. Lib., San Francisco

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#### From the Back Cover

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#### About the Author

**Stanley Cavell** is the Walter M. Cabot Professor Emeritus of Aesthetics and General Theory of Value at Harvard University and the author of many books. These include *Conditions Handsome and Unhandsome*, *In Quest of the Ordinary*, and *Themes out of School*, all published by the University of Chicago Press.

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