



In the Company of Demons: Unnatural Beings, Love, and Identity in the Italian Renaissance

By Armando Maggi

Download now

Read Online →

In the Company of Demons: Unnatural Beings, Love, and Identity in the Italian Renaissance By Armando Maggi

Who are the familiar spirits of classical culture and what is their relationship to Christian demons? In its interpretation of Latin and Greek culture, Christianity contends that Satan is behind all classical deities, semi-gods, and spiritual creatures, including the gods of the household, the lares and penates. But with *In the Company of Demons*, the world's leading demonologist Armando Maggi argues that the great thinkers of the Italian Renaissance had a more nuanced and perhaps less sinister interpretation of these creatures or spiritual bodies.

Maggi leads us straight to the heart of what Italian Renaissance culture thought familiar spirits were. Through close readings of Giovan Francesco Pico della Mirandola, Strozzi Cigogna, Pompeo della Barba, Ludovico Sinistrari, and others, we find that these spirits or demons speak through their sudden and striking appearances—their very bodies seen as metaphors to be interpreted. The form of the body, Maggi explains, relies on the spirits' knowledge of their human interlocutors' pasts. But their core trait is compassion, and sometimes their odd, eerie arrivals are seen as harbingers or warnings to protect us. It comes as no surprise then that when spiritual beings distort the natural world to communicate, it is vital that we begin to listen.

↓ [Download In the Company of Demons: Unnatural Beings, Love, ...pdf](#)

📄 [Read Online In the Company of Demons: Unnatural Beings, Love ...pdf](#)

In the Company of Demons: Unnatural Beings, Love, and Identity in the Italian Renaissance

By Armando Maggi

In the Company of Demons: Unnatural Beings, Love, and Identity in the Italian Renaissance By Armando Maggi

Who are the familiar spirits of classical culture and what is their relationship to Christian demons? In its interpretation of Latin and Greek culture, Christianity contends that Satan is behind all classical deities, semi-gods, and spiritual creatures, including the gods of the household, the lares and penates. But with *In the Company of Demons*, the world's leading demonologist Armando Maggi argues that the great thinkers of the Italian Renaissance had a more nuanced and perhaps less sinister interpretation of these creatures or spiritual bodies.

Maggi leads us straight to the heart of what Italian Renaissance culture thought familiar spirits were. Through close readings of Giovan Francesco Pico della Mirandola, Strozzi Cigogna, Pompeo della Barba, Ludovico Sinistrari, and others, we find that these spirits or demons speak through their sudden and striking appearances—their very bodies seen as metaphors to be interpreted. The form of the body, Maggi explains, relies on the spirits' knowledge of their human interlocutors' pasts. But their core trait is compassion, and sometimes their odd, eerie arrivals are seen as harbingers or warnings to protect us. It comes as no surprise then that when spiritual beings distort the natural world to communicate, it is vital that we begin to listen.

In the Company of Demons: Unnatural Beings, Love, and Identity in the Italian Renaissance By Armando Maggi **Bibliography**

- Sales Rank: #2900240 in Books
- Published on: 2008-06-15
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.00" h x 1.00" w x 6.00" l, .86 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 257 pages

 [Download In the Company of Demons: Unnatural Beings, Love, ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online In the Company of Demons: Unnatural Beings, Love ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online In the Company of Demons: Unnatural Beings, Love, and Identity in the Italian Renaissance By Armando Maggi

Editorial Review

Review

"Armando Maggi has a genius for displaying the astonishing range and character of Renaissance demonology, far from its earlier exclusively Satanic character. In this marvelous book Maggi considers angels, demons, satyrs, incubi, succubi, and other 'familiar' in the work of sixteenth-century thinkers in terms of both their natures and their functions of teaching, warning, protecting, and loving humans. Identified in the distant pagan past and transformed by the incarnation of the Word, they even participate in the process of human salvation. Far beyond thought or speech, Maggi's subject is the mayhem caused by an explosion of spirits, some enemies, all familiars."--Edward Peters, University of Pennsylvania

"In this book, Armando Maggi offers a series of very original and provocative readings of important Renaissance treatises that discuss different facets of the 'familiar spirits.' Each analysis is thought-provoking and enlightening, and often entertaining. But then, in an act worthy of a Renaissance magus, Maggi interconnects all his different readings into a completely new and original understanding of the essence of demonic spirits and their relations with humans. Weaving together disparate discussions of demons, language, identity, and desire, he uncovers for his readers a Renaissance in which familiar spirits were not marginal figures, but the very embodiment of what it meant to be human."--Richard Kieckhefer, Northwestern University

"Armando Maggi's "In the Company of Demons" is a major contribution to the redefinition of Renaissance demonology as a protoscientific discipline, comparable in rigor to Renaissance anthropology, psychology, anatomy, and physiology. Maggi brilliantly demonstrates how Renaissance demonologists 'read' the demonic body and its interactions in search of a positive role for demons. By interweaving Classical pagan lore with medieval Christian ideas about the existence, nature, and habits of evil spirits, the Renaissance sought evidence of divine compassion and human salvation among beings traditionally spurned by theologians. Essential reading for anyone needing to understand Christian--and post-Christian--demonology."--Walter Stephens, The Johns Hopkins University

"Maggi gives us an original and penetrating interpretation of Renaissance demonology, with a brilliant analysis and with a challenge to the reader for deeper thoughts on a theme that attracts scholars, but has still some new views."

"In his new and fascinating book, Armando Maggi tries to understand the strange world of Renaissance demonology without dwelling on its obvious absurdities. . . . His aim is not to psychoanalyse but to sympathize, and his method is to enter into the spirit (so to speak) of this strange world."

From the Inside Flap

Who are the familiar spirits of classical culture and what is their relationship to Christian demons? In its interpretation of Latin and Greek culture, Christianity contends that Satan is behind all classical deities, semi-gods, and spiritual creatures, including the gods of the household, the lares and penates. But with *In the Company of Demons*, the world's leading demonologist Armando Maggi argues that the great thinkers of the

Italian Renaissance had a more nuanced and perhaps less sinister interpretation of these creatures or spiritual bodies.

Maggi leads us straight to the heart of what Italian Renaissance culture thought familiar spirits were. Through close readings of Giovan Francesco Pico della Mirandola, Strozzi Cigogna, Pompeo della Barba, Ludovico Sinistrari, and others, we find that these spirits or demons speak through their sudden and striking appearances—their very bodies seen as metaphors to be interpreted. The form of the body, Maggi explains, relies on the spirits' knowledge of their human interlocutors' pasts. But their core trait is compassion, and sometimes their odd, eerie arrivals are seen as harbingers or warnings to protect us. It comes as no surprise then that when spiritual beings distort the natural world to communicate, it is vital that we begin to listen.

About the Author

Armando Maggi is professor of Romance languages and literatures and a member of the Committee on the History of Culture at the University of Chicago. He is the author of several books, including *Satan's Rhetoric* and *The Resurrection of the Body: Pier Paolo Pasolini from Sade to Saint Paul*, forthcoming from the University of Chicago Press.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Clementine Frazier:

This *In the Company of Demons: Unnatural Beings, Love, and Identity in the Italian Renaissance* book is absolutely not ordinary book, you have it then the world is in your hands. The benefit you will get by reading this book is definitely information inside this reserve incredible fresh, you will get data which is getting deeper you actually read a lot of information you will get. That *In the Company of Demons: Unnatural Beings, Love, and Identity in the Italian Renaissance* without we know teach the one who reading through it become critical in thinking and analyzing. Don't always be worry *In the Company of Demons: Unnatural Beings, Love, and Identity in the Italian Renaissance* can bring any time you are and not make your handbag space or bookshelves' grow to be full because you can have it in your lovely laptop even cellphone. This *In the Company of Demons: Unnatural Beings, Love, and Identity in the Italian Renaissance* having fine arrangement in word in addition to layout, so you will not feel uninterested in reading.

David Black:

This *In the Company of Demons: Unnatural Beings, Love, and Identity in the Italian Renaissance* are usually reliable for you who want to certainly be a successful person, why. The reason why of this *In the Company of Demons: Unnatural Beings, Love, and Identity in the Italian Renaissance* can be among the great books you must have is giving you more than just simple reading through food but feed an individual with information that possibly will shock your previous knowledge. This book is actually handy, you can bring it just about everywhere and whenever your conditions in the e-book and printed types. Beside that this *In the Company of Demons: Unnatural Beings, Love, and Identity in the Italian Renaissance* forcing you to have an enormous of experience like rich vocabulary, giving you trial of critical thinking that we all know it useful in

your day action. So , let's have it and revel in reading.

Jason Harden:

The actual book *In the Company of Demons: Unnatural Beings, Love, and Identity in the Italian Renaissance* will bring you to the new experience of reading some sort of book. The author style to spell out the idea is very unique. When you try to find new book to read, this book very suitable to you. The book *In the Company of Demons: Unnatural Beings, Love, and Identity in the Italian Renaissance* is much recommended to you to read. You can also get the e-book from the official web site, so you can quicker to read the book.

John Fouts:

The reserve untitled *In the Company of Demons: Unnatural Beings, Love, and Identity in the Italian Renaissance* is the publication that recommended to you to learn. You can see the quality of the reserve content that will be shown to anyone. The language that creator use to explained their ideas are easily to understand. The copy writer was did a lot of investigation when write the book, to ensure the information that they share for you is absolutely accurate. You also could possibly get the e-book of *In the Company of Demons: Unnatural Beings, Love, and Identity in the Italian Renaissance* from the publisher to make you considerably more enjoy free time.

Download and Read Online *In the Company of Demons: Unnatural Beings, Love, and Identity in the Italian Renaissance* By Armando Maggi #UPE21KHGD3N

Read In the Company of Demons: Unnatural Beings, Love, and Identity in the Italian Renaissance By Armando Maggi for online ebook

In the Company of Demons: Unnatural Beings, Love, and Identity in the Italian Renaissance By Armando Maggi Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read In the Company of Demons: Unnatural Beings, Love, and Identity in the Italian Renaissance By Armando Maggi books to read online.

Online In the Company of Demons: Unnatural Beings, Love, and Identity in the Italian Renaissance By Armando Maggi ebook PDF download

In the Company of Demons: Unnatural Beings, Love, and Identity in the Italian Renaissance By Armando Maggi Doc

In the Company of Demons: Unnatural Beings, Love, and Identity in the Italian Renaissance By Armando Maggi Mobipocket

In the Company of Demons: Unnatural Beings, Love, and Identity in the Italian Renaissance By Armando Maggi EPub

UPE21KHGD3N: In the Company of Demons: Unnatural Beings, Love, and Identity in the Italian Renaissance By Armando Maggi