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Nota di contenuto	A Reader on Reading -- Front matter -- Contents -- Preface -- Part I. Who Am I? -- A Reader in the Looking-Glass Wood -- Room for the Shadow -- On Being Jewish -- Meanwhile, in Another Part of the Forest -- The Further off From England -- Homage to Proteus -- Part II. The Lesson of the Master -- Borges in Love -- Borges and the Longed-For Jew -- Faking It -- Part III. Memoranda -- The Death of Che Guevara -- The Blind Bookkeeper -- The Perseverance of Truth -- Aids and the Poet -- Part IV. Wordplay -- The Full Stop -- In Praise of Words -- A Brief History of the Page -- The Voice That Says "I" -- Final Answers -- What Song the Sirens Sang -- Part V. The Ideal Reader -- Notes Towards a Definition of the Ideal Reader -- How Pinocchio Learned to Read -- Candide in Sanssouci -- The Gates of Paradise -- Time and the Doleful Knight -- Saint Augustine's Computer -- Part VI. Books as Business -- Reading White for Black -- The Secret Sharer -- Honoring Enoch Soames -- Jonah and the Whale -- The Legend of the Dodos -- Part VII. Crime and Punishment -- In Memoriam -- God's Spies -- Once Again, Troy -- Art and Blasphemy -- At the Mad Hatter's Table -- Part VIII. The Numinous Library -- Notes Towards a Definition of the Ideal Library -- The Library of the Wandering Jew -- The Library as Home -- The End of Reading -- Sources -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	In this major collection of his essays, Alberto Manguel, whom George Steiner has called "the Casanova of reading," argues that the activity of reading, in its broadest sense, defines our species. "We come into the

world intent on finding narrative in everything," writes Manguel, "landscape, the skies, the faces of others, the images and words that our species create." Reading our own lives and those of others, reading the societies we live in and those that lie beyond our borders, reading the worlds that lie between the covers of a book are the essence of *A Reader on Reading*. The thirty-nine essays in this volume explore the crafts of reading and writing, the identity granted to us by literature, the far-reaching shadow of Jorge Luis Borges, to whom Manguel read as a young man, and the links between politics and books and between books and our bodies. The powers of censorship and intellectual curiosity, the art of translation, and those "numinous memory palaces we call libraries" also figure in this remarkable collection. For Manguel and his readers, words, in spite of everything, lend coherence to the world and offer us "a few safe places, as real as paper and as bracing as ink," to grant us room and board in our passage.

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