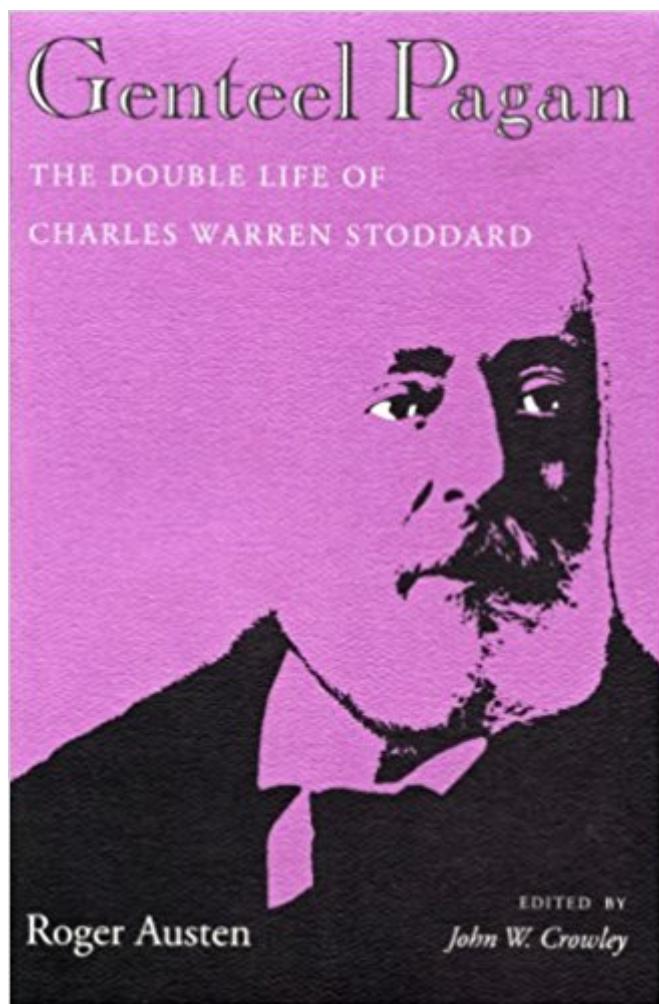


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Genteel Pagan: The Double Life Of Charles Warren Stoddard



Synopsis

A biography of a homosexual writer by a gay literary historian, this book offers not only the first published life of Charles Warren Stoddard (1843-1909), but also a wealth of new material on the formation of gender roles in late nineteenth-century America.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Austen's portrait of Stoddard is dramatic and affecting, but what is really extraordinary is the way in which, in the dilemma of his homosexuality, Stoddard reveals so much about the social-sexual codes of his time—and looks ahead to issues of gay identity today. . . . It is, I think, an instant classic." •Robert Emmet Long "A major contribution to the study of homosexuality and masculinity in American literature and society. Austen's work makes an absorbing narrative, raising many questions about the nature of homosexual desire and its management in the nineteenth century." •Robert K. Martin "A fascinating double portrait of two pioneers. . . . Crowley deserves to be thanked by everyone in the academy, for with grace, sensitivity, and decency, he has brought to completion an admirable work that would have been otherwise lost. Written 'in the spirit of Stonewall rather than of Foucault,' Genteel Pagan is a model of clarity, intensity, and compassion." •David Bergman "Once you read Genteel Pagan, you will never be able to forget the presence of gay men in the American past. Stoddard is our man in the 19th century, and it is good, at last, to have one." •Lambda Book Report "Austen has made a lasting contribution to literary history with this biography." •San Francisco Review of Books

A biography of a homosexual writer by a gay literary historian, this book offers not only the first published life of Charles Warren Stoddard (1843-1909), but also a wealth of new material on the formation of gender roles in late nineteenth-century America.

An essential piece of research for me as I'm writing about his friend Robert Louis Stevenson.

Having become handicapped, I can no longer make it to my University library but you guys are keeping me in books at a reasonable cost.

Roger Austen was living on peanut-butter sandwiches while researching this book. I was assisting him by letter, living as I did on the other coast. He ended his life in despair. There ought to be a fund for gay scholars to help avoid tragedies like this. This is the one and only biography of a minor writer who was gay, and who is therefore mostly (if at all) of interest to students of homosexuality rather than of literature.

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