



## The Fragility of Empathy after the Holocaust

By Carolyn J. Dean



Download



Read Online

### The Fragility of Empathy after the Holocaust By Carolyn J. Dean

When we are confronted with images of and memoirs from the Holocaust and subsequent cases of vast cruelty and suffering, is our impulse to empathize put at risk by the possibility of becoming numb to horror? Carolyn J. Dean's provocative new book addresses the ways we evade our failures of empathy in the face of massive suffering: Has exposure (or overexposure) to representations of pain damaged our ability to feel? Do the frequent claims that artistic representations of extreme cruelty are pornographic allow us to dodge the real issues that we must confront in attempting to come to terms with suffering? Does an excess of terror place constraints on compassion? Dean examines the very different representations of suffering found in visual media, history writing, cultural criticism, and journalism that grapple with the assumption that Americans and Western Europeans have been rendered numb and their appropriate human responses blunted by the events of the past century. The Fragility of Empathy after the Holocaust will be of interest to all readers concerned with contemporary "victim culture," Holocaust representation, and humanism.



[Download The Fragility of Empathy after the Holocaust ...pdf](#)



[Read Online The Fragility of Empathy after the Holocaust ...pdf](#)

# The Fragility of Empathy after the Holocaust

By Carolyn J. Dean

## The Fragility of Empathy after the Holocaust By Carolyn J. Dean

When we are confronted with images of and memoirs from the Holocaust and subsequent cases of vast cruelty and suffering, is our impulse to empathize put at risk by the possibility of becoming numb to horror? Carolyn J. Dean's provocative new book addresses the ways we evade our failures of empathy in the face of massive suffering: Has exposure (or overexposure) to representations of pain damaged our ability to feel? Do the frequent claims that artistic representations of extreme cruelty are pornographic allow us to dodge the real issues that we must confront in attempting to come to terms with suffering? Does an excess of terror place constraints on compassion? Dean examines the very different representations of suffering found in visual media, history writing, cultural criticism, and journalism that grapple with the assumption that Americans and Western Europeans have been rendered numb and their appropriate human responses blunted by the events of the past century. *The Fragility of Empathy after the Holocaust* will be of interest to all readers concerned with contemporary "victim culture," Holocaust representation, and humanism.

## The Fragility of Empathy after the Holocaust By Carolyn J. Dean Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #1404666 in Books
- Brand: Brand: Cornell University Press
- Published on: 2004-10-14
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.00" h x .56" w x 6.08" l, .73 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 216 pages

 [Download The Fragility of Empathy after the Holocaust ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The Fragility of Empathy after the Holocaust ...pdf](#)

## Download and Read Free Online The Fragility of Empathy after the Holocaust By Carolyn J. Dean

---

### Editorial Review

#### Review

"Carolyn Dean brings to bear her impressive skills as an intellectual historian to trace changing attitudes toward the representation of the suffering, vulnerable body. *The Fragility of Empathy after the Holocaust* is a wonderful example of the ways in which a certain kind of close critical reading can open up new perspectives on a field one thinks one knows. Dean takes what seem commonplace observations (the idea, in this case, that our capacity for empathy has been exhausted by the brutalities of genocide and world war) and asks how they operate to create explanations that avoid rather than confront what has happened."?Joan Wallach Scott, author of *Gender and the Politics of History*

"Carolyn J. Dean has written an original and very thought-provoking study of emotional and intellectual numbness as a response to the Holocaust. Her analysis of various case studies of the failure of empathy, particularly the association of Holocaust images with pornography and the controversy over Daniel Jonah Goldhagen's *Hitler's Willing Executioners*, is rigorous and profound."?Ruth Franklin, Senior Editor, *The New Republic*

"In her important new book, Carolyn J. Dean explores the complex relations between perceptions of a diminished modern capacity for empathy and a constellation of associated themes, including the so-called pornography of violence, the status of indifference as an often invoked category calling for critical historical investigation, and the search for an appropriate ethic of response to the Holocaust and other extreme events. Her thought-provoking, cross-disciplinary analysis should be of widespread interest."?Dominick LaCapra, Cornell University, author of *History in Transit: Experience, Identity, Critical Theory*

#### About the Author

Carolyn J. Dean is Charles J. Stille Professor of History and French at Yale University. She is the author of several books, including *The Fragility of Empathy after the Holocaust* and *Aversion and Erasure: The Fate of the Victim after the Holocaust*, both from Cornell.

### Users Review

#### From reader reviews:

#### Martin Solomon:

The book *The Fragility of Empathy after the Holocaust* can give more knowledge and information about everything you want. Why must we leave a good thing like a book *The Fragility of Empathy after the Holocaust*? A few of you have a different opinion about guide. But one aim which book can give many details for us. It is absolutely right. Right now, try to closer with your book. Knowledge or information that you take for that, you may give for each other; it is possible to share all of these. Book *The Fragility of Empathy after the Holocaust* has simple shape but the truth is know: it has great and large function for you. You can seem the enormous world by available and read a publication. So it is very wonderful.

**Eric Baur:**

Information is provisions for anyone to get better life, information these days can get by anyone from everywhere. The information can be a understanding or any news even a concern. What people must be consider whenever those information which is inside former life are challenging to be find than now is taking seriously which one is acceptable to believe or which one the particular resource are convinced. If you have the unstable resource then you get it as your main information you will have huge disadvantage for you. All those possibilities will not happen with you if you take The Fragility of Empathy after the Holocaust as your daily resource information.

**Robert Lewis:**

Reading can called head hangout, why? Because if you find yourself reading a book particularly book entitled The Fragility of Empathy after the Holocaust your brain will drift away trough every dimension, wandering in every single aspect that maybe unidentified for but surely will become your mind friends. Imaging each and every word written in a e-book then become one web form conclusion and explanation that will maybe you never get just before. The The Fragility of Empathy after the Holocaust giving you a different experience more than blown away your brain but also giving you useful details for your better life with this era. So now let us teach you the relaxing pattern is your body and mind will probably be pleased when you are finished reading through it, like winning a game. Do you want to try this extraordinary shelling out spare time activity?

**Katie Mueller:**

This The Fragility of Empathy after the Holocaust is great reserve for you because the content that is full of information for you who else always deal with world and get to make decision every minute. This specific book reveal it details accurately using great manage word or we can say no rambling sentences included. So if you are read the item hurriedly you can have whole information in it. Doesn't mean it only gives you straight forward sentences but hard core information with lovely delivering sentences. Having The Fragility of Empathy after the Holocaust in your hand like finding the world in your arm, details in it is not ridiculous 1. We can say that no e-book that offer you world throughout ten or fifteen second right but this publication already do that. So , this is good reading book. Hello Mr. and Mrs. occupied do you still doubt that?

**Download and Read Online The Fragility of Empathy after the Holocaust By Carolyn J. Dean #KP1A3XIBFHE**

## **Read The Fragility of Empathy after the Holocaust By Carolyn J. Dean for online ebook**

The Fragility of Empathy after the Holocaust By Carolyn J. Dean 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 The Fragility of Empathy after the Holocaust By Carolyn J. Dean books to read online.

### **Online The Fragility of Empathy after the Holocaust By Carolyn J. Dean ebook PDF download**

**The Fragility of Empathy after the Holocaust By Carolyn J. Dean Doc**

**The Fragility of Empathy after the Holocaust By Carolyn J. Dean Mobipocket**

**The Fragility of Empathy after the Holocaust By Carolyn J. Dean EPub**