



# On the Pleasure of Hating

*By William Hazlitt*

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## **On the Pleasure of Hating** By William Hazlitt

Appearing as part of his Table-Talk series, a conversational series written on topics concerning every day issues, William Hazlitt wrote "On the Pleasure of Hating" in 1823 during a bitter period of his life, amidst rising controversy over his previous works, as well as the dissolution of his marriage. Disgusted with the flowery romantic literature which was flourishing in that post-French Revolution period, Hazlitt drew inspiration from the works of Jean Jacques Rousseau, Edmund Burke, and various well-known English poets. He became known as one of the first English writers to make a profession of descriptive criticism. Fascinated with the extremes of human capabilities, Hazlitt wrote this essay as a plea for the understanding not merely of the pleasures of hating, but of the pleasures of realism. This collection includes seven essays: "The Fight," "The Indian Jugglers," "On the Spirit of Monarchy," "What is the People?", "What is the People? (concluded)," "On Reason and Imagination," and "On the Pleasure o

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## Editorial Review

### About the Author

William Hazlitt (1778-1830) was a prolific journalist, parliamentary reporter, dramatic and literary critic, essayist and lecturer. He was the one of the first English writers to make a profession of descriptive criticism.

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### The Fight

'- The *fight*, the *fight's* the thing,

Wherein I'll catch the conscience of the king.'

*Where there's a will, there's a way* - I said to myself, as I walked down Chancery-lane, about half-past six o'clock on Monday the 10th of December, to inquire at Jack Randall's where the fight the next day was to be; and I found 'the proverb' nothing 'musty' in the present instance. I was determined to see this fight, come what would, and see it I did, in great style. It was my *first fight*, yet it more than answered my expectations. Ladies - it is to you I dedicate this description; nor let it seem out of character for the fair to notice the exploits of the brave. Courage and modesty are the old English virtues; and may they never look cold and askance on one another! Think, ye fairest of the fair, loveliest of the lovely kind, ye practisers of soft enchantment, how many more ye kill with poisoned baits than ever fell in the ring; and listen with subdued air and without shuddering, to a tale tragic only in appearance, and sacred to the FANCY!

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**Virginia Carter:**

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