

Where *are* we when we read Bollas?

In *Conversations* we may think we are in poems, or at times theatre pieces, or short essays, but, after a while, we come to a curious realisation: we have been put somewhere else. Strangely familiar. But where? Uncannily, the author keeps the form a secret until we realise he is staging the world of inner conversation, which borrows its structure from human dialogue. Quite a ride this: resonant and ramifying in its reach.

# CONVERSATIONS

*Christopher Bollas*



**KARNAC**

*firing the mind*

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# CONTENTS

Brand new	1
Can I help you?	7
It feels good	17
Customer relations	25
Shopping	33
Memories are made of this	41
On board	49
Reading	53
Looking through the window	57
The overall situation	63

What is happening?	71
Do I look stupid?	77
Along came a spider	87
The man with no worries	93
What is it?	103
Cyberspace	111
On the same page	121
Self with other	125
Should we enter?	131
The delay	141
A thought searching for a thinker	151
Being and nothingness	165
So I went down to shop	187
<i>Afternote</i>	197

**BRAND NEW**

That's very nice.

Thanks.

Did you buy it round here?

Yes.

Recently?

Yesterday, actually.

So, it's ...

Brand new.

Something so nice about new things.

Yes.

You don't know the new.

That's special.

Is it comfortable?

Very.

Comfy and good looking?

Yes, actually.

Did it take long to find it?

Well, I wasn't actually looking for it.

You weren't looking for it?  
No, just happened upon it.

My God, were you lucky.  
That's what I thought.  
You must have been so surprised.  
I was actually.

Bowled over?  
What?  
Did you almost feel bowled over?  
I wouldn't go that far.

I would have been.  
Yes?  
For sure.  
Well it's a find.

I would have gone all dizzy.  
Really?  
All light-headed and faint-like.  
That's something.



And that's not usual for me.

Really?

No. Not usual at all. But if I had seen it ...

You would have nearly fainted?

How about that?

Yeah.

That's really something.

It sure is.

So, I am really lucky.

You are?

It might have killed me seeing it.

My God.

Yeah, that could have been a problem.

You can say that again.

So, I'm glad you have them.

I can see that.

Well ...

Oh.

Come back any time.

Sure.