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One often identifies Greek tragedy to its mythological content, Elizabethan tragedy to its historical intrigues, and the tragedy of Racine and Corneille to classical poetry. But what does the tragedy that permeates European theater of the 19th and 20th centuries recognize? A symposium organized at the Université Catholique de Louvain in February of 2001 enriched by new contributions, the volume attempts to open new perspective on these questions. For the first time, specialists focus upon modern writers, hailed in varying degrees as renovators of tragedy: von Kleist, Büchner, Ibsen, Strindberg, Maeterlinck, Tchekhov, Hauptmann, Ghelderode, Garcia Lorca... What is tragedy? Does there exist a contemporary tragedy? The product of a symposium, this volume attempts to bring, if not a response to these questions, at least new perspectives.