



The Bloomsbury Introduction to Popular Fiction

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The Bloomsbury Introduction to Popular Fiction From Bloomsbury Academic

Guiding readers through key writers and genres, historical contexts and major theoretical approaches, this is a comprehensive introduction to the study of popular fiction. Charting the rise of commercial fiction from the 19th century to today, *The Bloomsbury Introduction to Popular Fiction* includes introductory surveys, written by leading scholars, to a wide range of popular genres, including:

Science Fiction
Crime Writing
Romance and Chick Lit
Adventure Stories and Lad Lit
Horror
Graphic Novels
Children's Literature

Part II of the book also includes case-study readings of key writers and texts, from the work of HG Wells, Ian Fleming and Raymond Chandler to more recent books such as *Pride and Prejudice and Zombies*. The book also includes a chapter covering "The Writer's Perspective" on popular publishing, while annotated guides to further reading and online resources throughout give students the tools they need to pursue independent study on their courses.

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The Bloomsbury Introduction to Popular Fiction From Bloomsbury Academic Bibliography

- Rank: #3891700 in Books
- Published on: 2015-02-12
- Released on: 2015-02-12
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 232.41" h x 17.65" w x 6.23" l, .0 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 344 pages

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Editorial Review

Review

“This cornucopia of exciting essays on popular fiction from the Victorians to the present, by both veteran scholars and exciting new voices, boldly takes popular fiction beyond encrusted clichés and into the ferment of twenty-first century ideas. From Tom Brown's Schooldays to Twilight, from H. G. Wells; to Stieg Larsson, *The Bloomsbury Introduction to Popular Fiction* provides an accessible, fresh, and above all contemporary look at a part of literature that, increasingly, we find we cannot do without.” ?*Nicholas Birns, The New School, New York, USA*

“The chapters gathered in this collection provide a comprehensive and wide-ranging introduction to the field of popular fiction. The chapters on crime fiction, children's literature, utopian texts and science fiction, the spy thriller, horror and gothic literature and graphic narratives offer a thorough and in-depth overview of the various genres and their genealogies. Critical approaches to the genre and its various subgenres engage with contemporary theoretical discourses in order to show the complex aspects that have impacted upon the development of popular fiction and its reception by readers and academia. The volume presents an important contribution to the study of this literary field and will provide an informative and valuable tool for the teaching of undergraduate as well as postgraduate students.” ?*Angelica Michelis, Senior Lecturer, Department of English, Manchester Metropolitan University, UK*

“This wonderful collection takes popular fiction seriously - at the same time it celebrates what makes it so much fun to read. Berberich includes an impressive array of scholars, who persuasively argue that the traditional distinctions between 'high' and 'low' culture and literary and popular fiction ignore the ways in which both forms speak to us about who we are and the society in which we live. In our increasingly digital world, 'popular' culture surrounds us, and it will continue to take on new forms of expression, challenging and reshaping our ideas about what constitutes art and literature. This collection engages older and newer forms of the popular and makes an important contribution to fields of literary and cultural studies, and it is also a truly pleasurable read.” ?*Lisa Colletta, Professor of English, The American University of Rome, Italy*

About the Author

Christine Berberich is Senior Lecturer in English Literature at the University of Portsmouth, UK. Her previous publications include *The Image of the English Gentleman in Twentieth Century Literature* (2007).

Users Review

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