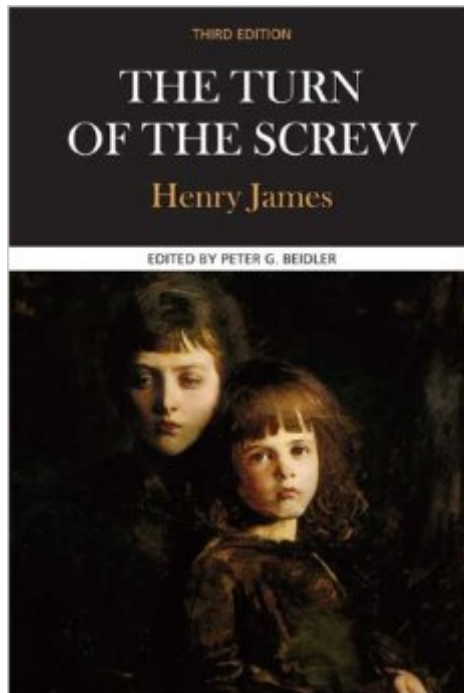


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The Turn Of The Screw: A Case Study In Contemporary Criticism (Case Studies In Contemporary Criticism)



Synopsis

This volume presents the text of the New York Edition of James's classic 1898 short novel, along with documents that place the work in historical context and critical essays that read *The Turn of the Screw* from several contemporary critical perspectives. The text and essays are complemented by biographical and critical introductions, bibliographies, and a glossary of critical and theoretical terms. In this third edition, a new section details in unique depth the revisions James made from the serialized *Colliers Weekly* edition to the New York Edition. New documents and illustrations enhance the historical contexts section, and new psychoanalytic essay with a Lacanian perspective appears in the section of contemporary criticism.

Book Information

Series: Case Studies in Contemporary Criticism

Paperback: 432 pages

Publisher: Bedford/St. Martin's; 3 edition (December 29, 2009)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0312597061

ISBN-13: 978-0312597061

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.9 x 8.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars - See all reviews (8 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #202,969 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #313 in Books > Textbooks > Humanities > Literature > American Literature #530 in Books > Literature & Fiction > History & Criticism > Regional & Cultural > United States #5205 in Books > Literature & Fiction > Classics

Customer Reviews

I've just finished reading "The Turn Of The Screw" by Henry James, a nineteenth century classic novella which can be read on various different levels. I read the 2003 edition, "The Turn Of The Screw: Case Studies in Contemporary Criticism", which includes the "Complete, Authoritative Text with Biographical, Historical, and Cultural Contexts, Critical History, and Essays from Contemporary Critical Perspectives", edited by Peter Beidler - I enjoyed both Henry James' story, and this edition's analyses, immensely. To begin with a short summary of the plot - set in the 1840s, written by James in 1897, and published in 1898 - a young woman is employed as governess to two children, Flora and Miles, by their absent uncle. She is to live at their magnificent country mansion, and is directed not to contact their uncle in London at all, but to take on all responsibility for their care. She learns

that their previous governess died tragically, after falling pregnant to another 'lower' servant, who also died suddenly. And she begins to see apparitions of these two 'sinister' ghosts - written in the first-person, the reader sees the governess's viewpoint, ruminations and thoughts - the text draws the reader into her firm beliefs that these two ghosts are intent on 'grasping' and 'possessing' the two 'angelic' children. If you want to know more - I can recommend you read it. Did James intend "The Turn Of The Screw" to be a simple ghost story? Should we presume that the ghosts, as we see them through the eyes of the governess, are real? Is this fictional world's reality truly as she sees it? Or, as analyses have suggested, are we in fact reading the story of a nineteenth century woman's psychological break-down in reaction to Victorian sexual repression? And did James intend to critique the rigid class system, and rigid gender roles, of Victorian England, as modern analyses further suggest? If you've read "The Turn Of The Screw" - what did you think?

This is an excellent little book for anyone who wants a copy of *The Turn of the Screw*. For that alone it's reasonably priced, but it also has several very interesting essays regarding this literary classic. It's very insightful and it was perfect to use for my graduate level Literary Theory class and my research paper. For the price, I highly recommend it if you just want a nice copy of the book, need a scholarly source, or just want some interesting insights into James' ghost story.

This anthology was put together in a way that gives the reader a great perspective of what motivated James to write a ghost story at the end of the 19th Century. The introduction to the story is comprehensive, the story is annotated well (however several annotations were incorrect), and the articles and theory explanations are well done and add depth to the understanding of James's story. If you are looking for a solid understanding of the time period and the motivation behind the story, this anthology is a great choice.

I just graduated with a B.A. degree in English and this book was on my syllabus for my Senior Seminar class, where our semester theme was novellas (longer than short stories, shorter than novels) I had heard of it, but never read it before. Typically, when a book is placed on a syllabus, it becomes a task to read rather than an enjoyment (just a student thing lol). But, not this one! I didn't want to stop reading it! The class discussions on this book/novella were amazing since the author kept things ambiguous for a reason. So this would be perfect for a book club. While this book could be considered a novel because it is a little longer than your typical novella, it's still a quick read. And by the end, you'll be wishing it was longer!

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