

Alternative Worlds In Fantasy Fiction

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G. Hartwell Bowdoin College. Institute of Modern Literature Betty Rosenberg William Albert Nitze Lee Foster Hartman William Richard Bradshaw Milton Friedman Michael Morrissey Alfred Emanuel Smith

reader's guide literature in english provides expert guidance to and critical analysis of the vast number of books available within the subject of english literature from anglo saxon times to the current american british and commonwealth scene it is designed to help students teachers and librarians choose the most appropriate books for research and study

the purpose of reading the fantastic imagination the avatars of a literary genre is the observation of the very hybridity of the fantastic genre as a typical postmodern form the volume continues an older project of the editor and a large number of the contributors that of investigating the current status of several popular genres from historical fiction to romance the scrutiny continues in this third volume dedicated to the fantastic imagination and the plethora of themes moods media and formats deriving from it fanlit is surely trendy even if it is not highbrow despite its noble ancestry this apparent paradox characterizes many of the literary genres en vogue today from historical fiction to romance this very contradiction forms part of the basis for this book after the success of the previous book in the series dedicated to a borderline literary genre romance the history of a genre was declared by cambridge scholars publishing as the critics choice book of the month in january 2013 this collection of studies about the fantastic imagination takes a further step into completing a larger research project which seeks to investigate the varieties of popular fiction although all contributors in the series teach canonical literary texts they did not hesitate to plunge into the opposite area of fictional work and moreover continued doing so even though such a project caused the raise of a few high brows percec 2012 232 as argued in the endnote of romance the history of a genre

one possible description of the contemporary medial landscape in western culture is that it has gone meta to an unprecedeted extent so that a remarkable meta culture has emerged

indeed metareference i e self reflexive comments on or references to various kinds of media related aspects of a given medial artefact or performance specific media and arts or the media in general is omnipresent and can nowadays be encountered in high art and literature as frequently as in their popular counterparts in the traditional media as well as in new media from the simpsons pop music children s literature computer games and pornography to the contemporary visual arts feature film postmodern fiction drama and even architecture everywhere one can find metareferential explorations comments on or criticism of representation medial conventions or modes of production and reception and related issues within individual media and genres notably in research on postmodernist metafiction this outspoken tendency towards metaization is known well enough and various reasons have been given for it yet never has there been an attempt to account for what one may aptly term the current metareferential turn on a larger transmedial scale this is what the metareferential turn in contemporary arts and media forms functions attempts at explanation undertakes to do as a sequel to its predecessor the volume metareference across media vol 4 in the series studies in intermediality which was dedicated to theoretical issues and transhistorical case studies coming from diverse disciplinary and methodological backgrounds the contributors to the present volume propose explanations of impressive subtlety breadth and depth for the current situation in addition to exploring individual forms and functions of metareference which may be linked with particular explanations as expected there is no monocausal reason to be found for the situation under scrutiny yet the proposals made have in their combination a remarkable explanatory power which contributes to a better understanding of an important facet of current media production and reception the essays assembled in the volume which also contains an introduction with a detailed survey over the possibilities of accounting for the metareferential turn will be relevant to students and scholars from a wide variety of fields cultural history at large intermediality and media studies as well as more particularly literary studies music film and art history

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in this updated selection guide the popular fiction genres of westerns science fiction horror fantasy and romance are not just embraced they are defined analyzed and organized with lists of notable authors titles and anthologies annotation copyrighted by book news inc portland or

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