



Radical Realism, Autofictional Narratives and the Reinvention of the Novel

By *Fiona J. Doloughan*

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This monograph treats modes of fictionality in contemporary auto/biography, memoir and autofiction. Adopting a case study approach, it demonstrates the extent to which contexts of production and reception are important in framing generic expectations with respect to the representation of lived experience and in helping to determine the status of the narrator as (fictional) persona or (implied) author.

Key selling points

- The monograph explores modes of fictionality in autobiographically informed writing and discusses issues of 'truth' in relation to 'fiction' and 'non-fiction'.
- It is concerned with both modes of production (writerly perspective) and reception (readerly perspective).
- It includes specific chapters on the work of named authors (Knausgaard, Winterson, Guo and Cusk) in the context of broader theoretical and critical issues relating to the narration of a life.
- It revisits arguments about the value of fiction against the backdrop of a so-called reality hunger.

Contents

Dedication; Preface; Acknowledgements; Introduction; Theoretical and Critical Concerns: Key Terms and Arguments; The Anatomy of a Writer: Karl Ove Knausgaard's *My Struggle*; Companion Pieces: Jeanette Winterson's *Why Be Happy When You Could Be Normal?* in Relation to *Oranges Are Not the Only Fruit*; A Cross-Cultural Memoir: Xiaolu Guo's *Once Upon a Time in the East*; Rachel Cusk's *Search for New Forms: Self-Projection and Refraction in Fiction and Non-Fiction*; Conclusion; References; Index

About the Author(s) / Editor(s)

Fiona J. Doloughan is senior lecturer in English (literature and creative writing) at the Open University, Milton Keynes, UK. She is the author of two previous monographs and numerous book chapters and peer-reviewed articles on aspects of contemporary narrative.

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