



Addiction, Representation and the Experimental Novel, 1985–2015

By Heath A. Diehl

Pub Date: 03 May 2022

Binding: Paperback

Price: £25.00 / \$40.00

ISBN: 9781839985669

Extent: 176 pages

Size: 153 x 229 mm /

6 x 9 inches

BISAC CATEGORY: LITERARY CRITICISM /

General LITERARY CRITICISM / Modern / 20th Century,

LITERARY CRITICISM / Modern / 21st Century

BISAC CODE: LIT000000

BIC CODE: DSK

RIGHTS

Exclusive: WORLD

An analysis of the practices and politics of reading the experimental addiction novel, advocating a compassionate response.

Since the nineteenth century, the Western realistic novel has persistently represented the addict as a morally toxic force bent on destroying the institutions, practices, and ideologies that historically have connoted reason, order, civilization. *Addiction, Representation* undertakes an investigation into an alternative literary tradition that unsettles this limited portrayal of the addict. The book analyzes the practices and politics of reading the experimental addiction novel, and outlines both a practice and an ethics of reading that advocates for a more compassionate response to both diegetic and extra-diegetic addicts—an approach that, at its core, is focused on understanding.

Readership

Academics—from upper-division undergraduates to graduate students, and faculty members across ranks—whose primary fields of study and research interests are interdisciplinary in nature and located squarely in the arts and humanities including English studies, critical & cultural Studies, popular culture, and communication (esp. since this book concerns itself principally with the practices of reception).

Contents

Introduction; 1. Bearing Witness: Leaving Las Vegas (1990); 2. Betraying: Dope (2006); 3. Gaslighting: The Girl on the Train (2015); 4. Transgressing: Less Than Zero (1985); 5. Disorienting: The Orange Eats Creeps (2010); Conclusion; Bibliography; Index.

About the Author(s) / Editor(s)

Heath A. Diehl is Teaching Professor in the Department of English and Honors College at Bowling Green State University. He is the author of *Wasted: Performing Addiction in America*.

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