



Mourning Films: A Critical Study of Loss and Grieving in Cinema

By Richard Armstrong

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The first in-depth study of its subject, this book seeks to account for a type of modernist film that revolves around bereavement. Identifying the roots of the genre in classical melodrama and horror cinema, and tracing perennial themes and aesthetic devices through to the European and American "intellectual melodramas" of the postwar decades, the book provides a taxonomy of characteristics. In the course of detailed case studies, the book deploys the film theory of Gilles Deleuze and Daniel Frampton while making use of Freudian psychoanalysis and present-day grief counseling theory. In making its case for the new genre, the book reflects upon the ways in which the very notion of genre has, in the post-classical period, responded to changing exhibition patterns, the rise of domestic spectatorship and the proliferation of Web-based film literature.

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Editorial Review

Review

"This is work of very high quality indeed. It makes an important and original contribution to the discipline of film studies as well as to wider, psychological, approaches to cultural texts. Armstrong's knowledge and understanding of film history and theory, and his remarkable skills in film analysis and interpretation, too, shine out on every page of this book. It was a pleasure, albeit often a poignant one, to read it." --Catherine Grant, senior lecturer in Film Studies, School of Media, Film and Music, University of Sussex, United Kingdom

"This lyrical, elegant book takes us into the heartland of a cinema of mourning. Richard Armstrong writes with feeling and grace about the capacity of the moving image to make grief visible." --Emma Wilson, professor, Cambridge University.

About the Author

Richard Armstrong teaches film studies at Cambridge University and is an associate tutor affiliated with the British Film Institute. He lives in Cambridge, United Kingdom.

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