# NOVELS FROM REAGAN'S AMERICA

A New Realism

Joseph Dewey

# **Novels From Reagans America A New Realism**

**Gerhard Hoffmann** 

### **Novels From Reagans America A New Realism:**

Sherwood Anderson Harold Bloom, 2003 The works of Sherwood Anderson are explored here including Godliness Death in the Woods The Man Who Became A Woman I Want to Know Why and The Egg Richard Ford and the Ends of **Realism** Ian McGuire, 2015-06 An original exploration of the work of writer Richard Ford in the context of its place within contemporary debates about the possible role meaning of and value of literary realism in a postmodern age Reagan's America Joseph Dewey, 1999 If postmodern play is literature s equivalent to Disney World then Dewey introduces us to authors who work against the glitz who try to find something worth committing to in a world of simulacra Kathryn Hume Distinguished Professor of English Pennsylvania State University A vivid and engaging account of American literature produced during the Reagan Era intelligent thoughtful and accessible James A Schiff University of Cincinnati Introducing the term spectacle realism Joseph Dewey analyzes eight contemporary novels that extend the current understanding of American literary realism the authors of which possess a moral energy and compassion often obscured in postmodern writing For nearly 100 years Dewey says American realism produced novels that treated most bleakly the major events in people s lives like falling in love or facing death Focusing on the Reagan era Dewey examines a group of popular novelists Joyce Carol Oates John Irving Reynolds Price T Coraghessan Boyle William Kennedy Robert Ferro Anne Tyler and Richard Powers who departed from that traditional realism Their characters move beyond disillusionment to affirmation finding that engagement with the signature events of their lives brings rewards rather than punishment In addition to presenting a compelling picture of the cultural values of the 1980s Novels from Reagan's America shows how significant writers have begun to reclaim for fiction the traditional right to illuminate our lives Joseph Dewey associate professor of contemporary American literature at the University of Pittsburgh Johnstown is the author of In A Dark Time The Apocalyptic Temper in the American Novel of the Nuclear Age and of articles in the Mississippi Quarterly the Hollins Critic and the Review of Contemporary Fiction

Deconstructing Reaganism Douglas E. Forster, 2014-06-02 As in so many other areas of American society the political legacy of Ronald Reagan had an imposing presence in many contemporary American films particularly between 1980 and 2000 Six films which collectively represent the spectrum of Reaganism's most popular tropes demonstrate quite compellingly that in celebrating nostalgically the blissful pleasantries of family stability and social order so essential to Reagan's political philosophy an unsettling and unsatisfying mythology has been created about a period in which many Americans were acutely aware that something was missing even if they could not pinpoint it at the time This leads the critical viewer to largely unacknowledged subtexts in all six films that begin to reveal the contradictions incoherencies and paradoxes rooted in popular Reaganesque portrayals Utilising a detailed qualitative case study methodology this book incorporates theoretical foundations that expand upon Fairclough's path breaking research on media discourse and Todorov's broadly articulated framework of fantasy in order to explore 1 Which elements of Fairclough's framework for critical discourse analysis can be

applied to explore the discursive structures within these American fantasy films 2 How far do the films follow Reaganist concepts of a new American society 3 How far do notions of the fantastic and postmodern concepts break with common patterns of Reaganism reflected in these films While many critics rightly cite the numerous elements in these films that appear to reinforce fundamental message points underlying Reaganism this study demonstrates how the films characters and plot lines also serve to reveal the inherent and irreconcilable incoherence of the sociopolitical and sociocultural tenets of The Cambridge Introduction to Contemporary American Fiction Stacey Olster, 2017-06-09 The Cambridge Introduction to Contemporary American Fiction explores fiction written over the last thirty years in the context of the profound political historical and cultural changes that have distinguished the contemporary period Focusing on both established and emerging writers and with chapters devoted to the American historical novel regional realism the American political novel the end of the Cold War and globalization 9 11 borderlands and border identities race and the legacy of postmodern aesthetics this Introduction locates contemporary American fiction at the intersection of a specific time and long standing traditions In the process it investigates the entire concept of what constitutes an American author while exploring the vexed yet resilient nature of what the concept of home has come to signify in so much writing today This wide ranging study will be invaluable to students instructors and general readers alike Encyclopedia of the American Short Story Abby H. P. Werlock, 2015-04-22 Two volume set that presents an introduction to American short fiction from the 19th century to the present Realist Critiques of Visual Culture Edward Barnaby, 2018-05-10 Have industrial age technologies and visual discourses transformed us into spectators of the real and can realist fiction make that transformation visible to us This book brings Situationist Guy Debord's Society of the Spectacle and an array of cultural criticism into dialogue with novels by Hardy Forster Woolf Rushdie Carey and Barnes to foreground literary realism's critique of visual culture including Gothic architectural revival neoclassicism tourism historical pageantry postcolonial cinema and photography museums preservationism urbanism and artisanal neo folk movements Barnaby advances the concept of meta spectacle to distinguish realist fiction that engages ethically with visual discourses from realist ic fiction that reproduces the visible veneer of reality for aesthetic consumption He highlights the limitations of artistic critiques of spectacle considers their resilience toward a culture industry that continuously repackages iconoclasm as iconicity and reflects upon the process of reorienting the reader to comprehend realist gestures By heightening the capacity to recognize our own immersion within objectified representations of the real Realist Critiques of Visual Culture demonstrates how literary realism remains vital within a society that is so deeply invested in visually replicating and archiving lived experience Dark Eves on America Gavin Cologne-Brookes, 2009-08-01 A sound and engaging book that creates a balanced overview of Oates's career while tackling the question of her role in the wider community Modern Fiction Studies Joyce Carol Oates is America's most extraordinary and prolific woman of letters In Dark Eyes on America Gavin Cologne Brookes illuminates the vision of this remarkable

master of her craft finding evidence in her novels of an evolving consciousness that ultimately forgoes abstract introspection in favor of a more practical approach to art as a tool for understanding both personal and social challenges With her clear eyed perception of human behavior Oates has for decades offered unhesitating explorations of genre topic and style making her an inevitable if somewhat elusive subject for critical assessment Cologne Brookes's conversations and correspondence with Oates his close textual study of her novels and abundant references to her essays stories poetry and plays result in a work that critically synthesizes the layers of her writing This comprehensive yet accessible study offers an essential analysis of one of the twentieth century s most significant writers A thoughtful thorough study which encourages readers to re examine Oates s novels within a philosophical context Journal of the American Studies Association of Texas Modernism to Postmodernism Gerhard Hoffmann, 2016-08-01 This systemic study discusses in its historical cultural and aesthetic context the postmodern American novel between the years of 1960 and 1980 A general overview of the various definitions of postmodernism in philosophy cultural theory and aesthetics provides the framework for the inquiry into more specific problems such as the broadening of aesthetics the relationship between aesthetics and ethics the transformation of the artistic tradition the interdependence between modernism and postmodernism and the change in the aesthetics of fiction Other topics addressed here include situationalism montage the ordinary and the fantastic the subject and the character the imagination comic modes and the future of the postmodern strategies. The authors whose fiction is treated in some detail under the various aspects thematized are John Barth Donald Barthelme Richard Brautigan Robert Coover Stanley Elkin Raymond Federman William Gaddis John Hawkes Jerzy Kosinski Thomas Pynchon Ishmael Reed Ronald Sukenick and Kurt The Cambridge Companion to Don DeLillo John N. Duvall, 2008-05-29 With the publication of his seminal Vonnegut novel White Noise Don DeLillo was elevated into the pantheon of great American writers His novels are admired and studied for their narrative technique political themes and their prophetic commentary on the cultural crises affecting contemporary America In an age dominated by the image DeLillo's fiction encourages the reader to think historically about such matters as the Cold War the assassination of President Kennedy threats to the environment and terrorism This Companion charts the shape of DeLillo's career his relation to twentieth century aesthetics and his major themes It also provides in depth assessments of his best known novels White Noise Libra and Underworld which have become required reading not only for students of American literature but for all interested in the history and the future of American culture

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### Table of Contents Novels From Reagans America A New Realism

- 1. Understanding the eBook Novels From Reagans America A New Realism
  - The Rise of Digital Reading Novels From Reagans America A New Realism
  - Advantages of eBooks Over Traditional Books
- 2. Identifying Novels From Reagans America A New Realism
  - Exploring Different Genres
  - o Considering Fiction vs. Non-Fiction
  - $\circ \ \ Determining \ Your \ Reading \ Goals$
- 3. Choosing the Right eBook Platform
  - Popular eBook Platforms
  - Features to Look for in an Novels From Reagans America A New Realism
  - User-Friendly Interface
- 4. Exploring eBook Recommendations from Novels From Reagans America A New Realism
  - Personalized Recommendations

- Novels From Reagans America A New Realism User Reviews and Ratings
- Novels From Reagans America A New Realism and Bestseller Lists
- 5. Accessing Novels From Reagans America A New Realism Free and Paid eBooks
  - Novels From Reagans America A New Realism Public Domain eBooks
  - Novels From Reagans America A New Realism eBook Subscription Services
  - Novels From Reagans America A New Realism Budget-Friendly Options
- 6. Navigating Novels From Reagans America A New Realism eBook Formats
  - o ePub, PDF, MOBI, and More
  - Novels From Reagans America A New Realism Compatibility with Devices
  - Novels From Reagans America A New Realism Enhanced eBook Features
- 7. Enhancing Your Reading Experience
  - Adjustable Fonts and Text Sizes of Novels From Reagans America A New Realism
  - Highlighting and Note-Taking Novels From Reagans America A New Realism
  - Interactive Elements Novels From Reagans America A New Realism
- 8. Staying Engaged with Novels From Reagans America A New Realism
  - Joining Online Reading Communities
  - Participating in Virtual Book Clubs
  - Following Authors and Publishers Novels From Reagans America A New Realism
- 9. Balancing eBooks and Physical Books Novels From Reagans America A New Realism
  - ∘ Benefits of a Digital Library
  - $\circ$  Creating a Diverse Reading Collection Novels From Reagans America A New Realism
- 10. Overcoming Reading Challenges
  - Dealing with Digital Eye Strain
  - Minimizing Distractions
  - Managing Screen Time
- 11. Cultivating a Reading Routine Novels From Reagans America A New Realism
  - Setting Reading Goals Novels From Reagans America A New Realism
  - Carving Out Dedicated Reading Time
- 12. Sourcing Reliable Information of Novels From Reagans America A New Realism
  - Fact-Checking eBook Content of Novels From Reagans America A New Realism

- Distinguishing Credible Sources
- 13. Promoting Lifelong Learning
  - Utilizing eBooks for Skill Development
  - Exploring Educational eBooks
- 14. Embracing eBook Trends
  - Integration of Multimedia Elements
  - Interactive and Gamified eBooks

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