

READING THE BRONTË BODY
Disease, Desire, and the Constraints of Culture



BETH TORGERSON



Reading The Bronte Body Disease Desire And The Constraints Of Culture

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Reading The Bronte Body Disease Desire And The Constraints Of Culture:

Reading the Brontë Body Beth Torgerson, 2005-08-19 Anne Emily and Charlotte Brontë's literary representations of illness and disease reflect the major role illness played in the lives of the Victorians and its frequent reoccurrence within the Brontë's personal lives. An in-depth analysis of the history of nineteenth-century medicine provides the necessary cultural context to understand these representations, giving modern readers a sense of how health, illness, and the body were understood in Victorian England. Together, medical anthropology and the history of medicine offer a useful lens with which to understand Victorian texts. *Reading the Brontë Body* is the first scholarly attempt to provide both the theoretical framework and historical background to make such a literary analysis of the Brontë novels possible while exploring how these representations of disease and illness work within a larger cultural framework.

Reading the Brontë Body Beth E. Torgerson, 2001 **The Brontës in Context** Marianne Thormählen, 2012-11 Crammed with information *The Brontës in Context* shows how the Brontë's fiction interacts with the spirit of the time.

Women, Love, and Commodity Culture in British Romanticism Daniela Garofalo, 2016-02-17 Offering a new understanding of canonical Romanticism Daniela Garofalo suggests that representations of erotic love in the period have been largely misunderstood. Commonly understood as a means for transcending political and economic realities, love for several canonical Romantic writers offers instead a contestation of those realities. Garofalo argues that Romantic writers show that the desire for transcendence through love mimics the desire for commodity consumption and depends on the same dynamic of delayed fulfillment that was advocated by thinkers such as Adam Smith. As writers such as William Blake, Lord Byron, Sir Walter Scott, John Keats, and Emily Brontë engaged with the period's concern with political economy and the nature of desire, they challenged stereotypical representations of women either as self-denying consumers or as intemperate participants in the market economy. Instead, their works show the importance of women for understanding modern economics, with women's desire conceived as a force that not only undermines the political economy's emphasis on productivity, growth, and perpetual consumption but also holds forth the possibility of alternatives to a system of capitalist exchange.

Charlotte Brontë and Contagion Jo Waugh, 2024-08-10 This book argues for the significance of contagious disease in critical and biographical assessment of Charlotte Brontë's work. Waugh argues that contagion, infection, and quarantining strategies are central themes in *Jane Eyre* (1847), *Shirley* (1849), and *Villette* (1853). This book establishes the ways in which Charlotte Brontë was closely engaged with the political and social contexts in which she wrote, extending this to the representation and metaphorical import of illness in Brontë's novels. Waugh also posits that although miasmatic theories are often assumed to have been entirely in the ascendant in the late 1840s, the relationship between miasma and contagion was a complex one, and contagion, in fact, remained a crucial way for Charlotte Brontë to represent disease itself as well as to explore the relationships between the individual and social, political, and cultural contexts. Contagion and its metaphors are central to Charlotte Brontë's construction of subjectivity and of the responsibilities of the individual and the group.

The Reader, the

Body, and the Book Natasha Anderson, 2025-05-15 How do books dazzle disgust or delight audiences What entices readers to track characters trials and tribulations Why do stories echo across the ages with their intensity Books with vibrant somatic elements prompt us to identify with protagonists who fall in love flee from pursuers and fight for survival enhancing the awareness of our own bodies This transatlantic diachronic study of 19th century literature analyzes the rising complexity of sensorimotor descriptions in four major Victorian novels Anne Brontë's *The Tenant of Wildfell Hall* Charlotte Brontë's *Villette* Henry James's *The Portrait of a Lady* and Thomas Hardy's *Tess of the d'Urbervilles* Based on phenomenological insights of French philosophers Maurice Merleau-Ponty and Paul Ricœur this groundbreaking research on visceral reading experiences in British and U.S. American fiction illuminates the immersive appeal of bodily motions and sensations in books film adaptations and digital resources of the 21st century

A Companion to the Brontës Diane Long Hoeveler, Deborah Denenholz Morse, 2016-05-31 A Companion to the Brontës brings the latest literary research and theory to bear on the life work and legacy of the Brontë family Includes sections on literary and critical contexts individual texts historical and cultural contexts reception studies and the family's continuing influence Features in depth articles written by well known and emerging scholars from around the world Addresses topics such as the Gothic tradition film and dramatic adaptation psychoanalytic approaches the influence of religion and political and legal questions of the day from divorce and female disinheritance to worker reform Incorporates recent work in Marxist feminist post colonial and race and gender studies

LITERATURE: Lingua Franca of Cultures Senem ÜSTÜN KAYA , 2023-04-03 Literature is an essential unit of a culture and social political and historical changes in a society impact both culture language and particularly literature Although there are various languages in the world literature is the main communication that connects people from different cultures and countries Literature Lingua Franca of Cultures thus is designed to depict the similarities between different cultures within similar issues and topics To meet this purpose the book contains thirteen chapters each of which was designed to clarify exemplify and interpret a specific theme underscored by remarkable authors from different cultures Within this scope each chapter respectively presents a topic diseases male gaze children intimate relations antagonists or protagonists human nature war and depression parenthood death and suicide God and religion geography and human revenge and alienation In each chapter notable literary texts from different authors were analyzed to foreground the thematic and contextual similarities This book hence provides readers different perspectives and interpretations to better internalize the common themes and messages of world classics Although there are various studies of the remarkable senior academicians in the comparative literary field hopefully Literature Lingua Franca of Cultures would contribute to this field both for the academicians and readers

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CHAPTER XI GEOGRAPHY AND HUMAN CHAPTER XII REVENGE CHAPTER XIII ALIENATION **The Brontës and the Idea of the Human** Alexandra Lewis,2019-05-16 Investigates the idea of the human within Bront sisters work offering new insight on their writing and cultural contexts The Gothic Forms of Victorian Poetry Olivia Loksing Moy,2023-08-30 A lonely damsel imprisoned within a castle or convent cell The eavesdropping of a prisoner next door The framed image of a woman with a sinister past These familiar tropes from 1790s novels and tales exploded onto the English literary scene in low brow titles of Gothic romance Surprisingly however they also re emerged as features of major Victorian poems from the 1830s to 1870s Such signature tropes inquisitional overhearing female confinement and the damsel in distress supernatural switches between living and dead bodies were transfigured into poetic forms that we recognise and teach today as canonically Victorian The Gothic Forms of Victorian Poetry identifies a poetics of Gothic enclosure constitutive of high Victorian poetry that came to define key nineteenth century poetic forms from the dramatic monologue to women s sonnet sequences and metasonnets to Pre Raphaelite picture poems

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