

# we have always lived in the castle

We Have Always Lived in the Castle: Exploring Shirley Jackson's Timeless Gothic Masterpiece

**we have always lived in the castle**—these words echo hauntingly through the corridors of Shirley Jackson's chilling novel, inviting readers into a world steeped in mystery, suspense, and psychological complexity. Since its publication in 1962, *\*We Have Always Lived in the Castle\** has captivated audiences with its unique blend of gothic horror and dark family drama, securing its place as a classic in American literature. But what is it about this story that continues to resonate so deeply, and why does the phrase itself carry such weight?

In this article, we'll delve into the layers of Shirley Jackson's enigmatic novel, explore its themes, characters, and symbolism, and discuss why it remains a compelling read for contemporary audiences. Whether you're a longtime fan or encountering the story for the first time, understanding *\*We Have Always Lived in the Castle\** offers a fascinating glimpse into isolation, identity, and the human psyche.

## The Intriguing Premise of We Have Always Lived in the Castle

At its core, *\*We Have Always Lived in the Castle\** tells the story of the Blackwood sisters, Merricat and Constance, who live reclusively in their family estate following a tragic poisoning incident that claimed the lives of most of their relatives. The novel's narrator, Merricat, invites readers into her peculiar world, blending innocence with a hint of menace. The title phrase itself is a declaration of permanence and defiance—an assertion that despite the outside world's hostility, the sisters' way of life remains unchanged.

This setup introduces readers to themes of isolation, family secrets, and societal alienation. The Blackwood home, almost castle-like in its grandeur and seclusion, becomes a symbol of both sanctuary and imprisonment. The phrase "we have always lived in the castle" encapsulates this duality, reflecting the characters' refusal to conform and the psychological barriers they erect.

## The Gothic Elements That Define the Novel

Shirley Jackson's work is often celebrated for its mastery of gothic fiction, and *\*We Have Always Lived in the Castle\** is no exception. The novel's atmosphere is thick with eerie tension, dark secrets, and an unsettling sense of otherworldliness. Elements such as the remote mansion, the mysterious poisoning, and the ever-watchful townspeople contribute to a mood that is both claustrophobic and suspenseful.

The castle motif is central to this gothic ambiance. Unlike traditional castles associated with knights and royalty, the Blackwood estate is more of a fortress—isolated, defensive,

and mysterious. It guards not only the physical inhabitants but also their hidden traumas and twisted family dynamics. The phrase “we have always lived in the castle” underscores this enduring sense of isolation and detachment from normal society.

## **Understanding the Characters and Their Psychological Depth**

One of the most compelling aspects of *\*We Have Always Lived in the Castle\** is its rich, psychologically complex characters. Merricat Blackwood, with her childlike narration and peculiar rituals, draws readers into her warped worldview. Her sister Constance, on the other hand, presents a quieter but equally complex personality, burdened by guilt and social ostracism.

The dynamic between the siblings is central to the story. Merricat’s protective, sometimes violent tendencies contrast with Constance’s restrained demeanor, creating a tension that drives the narrative forward. The phrase “we have always lived in the castle” reflects their interdependent existence—two individuals bound together by trauma and circumstance, choosing isolation over the cruel judgment of the outside world.

## **The Role of Family and Trauma**

Family tragedy is at the heart of the novel. The poisoning incident that decimated the Blackwood family remains shrouded in ambiguity, and the lingering effects of this event shape the characters’ lives. Shirley Jackson explores how trauma can fracture family bonds and warp perceptions of reality.

The sisters’ retreat into their “castle” can be seen as a coping mechanism—a way to preserve what remains of their family and protect themselves from further harm. Their refusal to leave the estate or engage meaningfully with the townspeople highlights the corrosive power of trauma and the lengths people go to maintain a sense of control.

## **Symbolism and Themes in *We Have Always Lived in the Castle***

Beyond its gripping plot, *\*We Have Always Lived in the Castle\** is rich with symbolism and layered themes that invite deeper analysis. The novel’s title itself acts as a symbol of permanence and resistance, but there are many other motifs worth exploring.

## **The Castle as a Metaphor**

The Blackwood home is more than just a setting—it functions as a metaphor for isolation,

protection, and psychological defense. The “castle” represents a barrier between the sisters and a hostile external world, but it also symbolizes the imprisonment of their fears and secrets. This dual nature speaks to broader human experiences of safety versus confinement.

## **Social Alienation and the Fear of the Other**

Throughout the novel, the Blackwoods face suspicion and hostility from their neighbors, who represent societal norms and judgment. This dynamic explores themes of social alienation and the fear of those who are different. Merricat’s defiance and the sisters’ withdrawal illustrate how marginalized individuals may respond to exclusion.

## **The Fragility of Sanity and Reality**

Merricat’s unreliable narration challenges readers to question the nature of reality within the story. Her rituals, imagination, and perceptions blur the line between fantasy and madness, prompting reflection on the fragility of the human mind when confronted with trauma and isolation.

## **Why We Have Always Lived in the Castle Continues to Captivate Readers**

Decades after its release, *We Have Always Lived in the Castle* remains a compelling read for many reasons. Its blend of gothic suspense, psychological insight, and social commentary creates a rich tapestry that appeals to a wide range of readers and critics alike.

## **The Enduring Appeal of Shirley Jackson’s Writing**

Shirley Jackson’s unique voice and storytelling style contribute significantly to the novel’s lasting popularity. Her ability to craft an unsettling atmosphere while delving into complex emotional and psychological themes makes the book a rewarding experience. The phrase “we have always lived in the castle” lingers in readers’ minds as a haunting refrain.

## **Relevance to Contemporary Themes**

Themes of isolation, trauma, and societal rejection are as relevant today as they were when the novel was first published. In a world where mental health awareness and social inclusion are increasingly discussed, *We Have Always Lived in the Castle* offers a poignant exploration of these issues through the lens of gothic fiction.

# Tips for Readers New to the Novel

If you're approaching *\*We Have Always Lived in the Castle\** for the first time, here are some tips to enhance your reading experience:

- **Pay attention to Merricat's narration:** Her perspective shapes the entire story, and understanding her mindset is key to grasping the novel's nuances.
- **Note the symbolism:** The castle, the poisoned family, and the town's hostility are all loaded with deeper meanings.
- **Embrace the ambiguity:** The novel doesn't provide clear answers, which invites readers to interpret events and motivations in their own way.
- **Explore Shirley Jackson's other works:** Reading her other stories, like "The Lottery," can provide additional insight into her themes and style.

Shirley Jackson's *\*We Have Always Lived in the Castle\** is more than just a gothic tale—it's a profound exploration of human nature, family bonds, and the walls we build around ourselves. Its title, repeated through the narrative, serves as a mantra of endurance and defiance, reminding us that sometimes, the most formidable castles are the ones we inhabit within our minds.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### What is the main theme of 'We Have Always Lived in the Castle'?

'We Have Always Lived in the Castle' explores themes of isolation, family loyalty, and the effects of trauma and ostracism on individuals.

### Who are the main characters in 'We Have Always Lived in the Castle'?

The main characters are Merricat Blackwood, her sister Constance Blackwood, and their Uncle Julian.

### How does Shirley Jackson create suspense in 'We Have Always Lived in the Castle'?

Shirley Jackson uses an unreliable narrator, eerie atmosphere, and gradual revelation of dark family secrets to build suspense.

## **What role does the setting play in 'We Have Always Lived in the Castle'?**

The isolated Blackwood estate symbolizes the characters' detachment from society and enhances the novel's gothic and claustrophobic mood.

## **How is Merricat's perspective important to the story?**

Merricat's perspective, as an unreliable and psychologically complex narrator, shapes the reader's understanding of the events and the family dynamic.

## **What is the significance of the title 'We Have Always Lived in the Castle'?**

The title reflects the characters' self-imposed isolation and the fortress-like protection they maintain around their family and secrets.

## **How does the novel address the theme of social ostracism?**

The Blackwoods face hostility and suspicion from their neighbors, highlighting themes of prejudice and fear of the outsider.

## **What is the impact of the poisoning incident on the story?**

The poisoning is the central mystery that haunts the family, influencing their behavior and relationships throughout the novel.

## **Has 'We Have Always Lived in the Castle' been adapted into other media?**

Yes, the novel was adapted into a film in 2018, starring Taissa Farmiga as Merricat.

## **Why is 'We Have Always Lived in the Castle' considered a classic of gothic literature?**

Its atmospheric setting, psychological depth, and exploration of dark family secrets align with gothic traditions, making it a modern classic.

## **Additional Resources**

**\*\*We Have Always Lived in the Castle: An In-Depth Exploration of Shirley Jackson's Gothic Masterpiece\*\***

**we have always lived in the castle** is a phrase that resonates far beyond its literal meaning, encapsulating the essence of Shirley Jackson's 1962 novel *\*We Have Always Lived in the Castle\**. This dark, atmospheric tale continues to captivate readers and critics alike, standing as a seminal work in gothic literature and psychological suspense. The novel's haunting narrative, combined with Jackson's deft characterizations and thematic complexity, has made it a subject of scholarly interest and popular discourse for decades.

## **Exploring the Legacy of *\*We Have Always Lived in the Castle\****

Shirley Jackson's *\*We Have Always Lived in the Castle\** is not just a story; it is a profound exploration of isolation, family dynamics, and societal alienation. Set in a decaying manor on the outskirts of a provincial town, the book follows the lives of the Blackwood sisters, Merricat and Constance, and their ailing Uncle Julian. The atmosphere Jackson creates is thick with suspicion and psychological tension, making the novel a standout example of mid-20th-century American gothic fiction.

The phrase "we have always lived in the castle" itself, repeated throughout the novel, symbolizes more than a physical place. It denotes a psychological fortress, a refuge from a hostile world. This theme of retreating into isolation resonates deeply in discussions of mental health, trauma, and the human need for safety. The book's portrayal of the Blackwood family's estrangement from the nearby villagers offers a compelling study of social ostracism and the consequences of fear and misunderstanding.

## **Psychological Depth and Characterization**

One of the most compelling aspects of *\*We Have Always Lived in the Castle\** is Shirley Jackson's nuanced character development. Merricat, the novel's protagonist and narrator, exhibits traits of obsessive-compulsive behavior and magical thinking, which subtly reveal the inner workings of her mind. Her protective, almost ritualistic actions around the home highlight the fragility of her mental state, making the reader question the reliability of her narration.

Constance, in contrast, embodies a more grounded but equally complex figure. Her return from an extended period of social exile after being accused of poisoning family members adds layers of ambiguity and tension. Meanwhile, Uncle Julian's obsession with documenting the past poisonings offers a haunting reminder of trauma's lasting effects.

This trio's interactions form the emotional core of the novel, illustrating how trauma can shape identity and relationships. The psychological interplay between the characters invites readers to analyze themes of trust, memory, and the fine line between protection and imprisonment.

# Thematic Exploration: Isolation, Power, and Otherness

*\*We Have Always Lived in the Castle\** deftly explores themes that remain relevant in contemporary society. Isolation is a dominant motif, both physical and emotional. The Blackwood home, towering and crumbling, serves as a literal and symbolic castle that shields its inhabitants from the outside world. This isolation, however, is a double-edged sword—it provides safety but also intensifies paranoia and detachment.

Power dynamics within the household and between the family and villagers reveal societal tensions surrounding class, gender, and otherness. The villagers' hostility towards the Blackwoods stems from fear and jealousy, reflecting broader social prejudices. Jackson critiques the destructive nature of mob mentality and the fear of those deemed different or threatening.

The novel's gothic elements—dark family secrets, death, and decay—enhance these themes, creating a rich, layered narrative that blends suspense with social commentary.

## Literary Style and Narrative Techniques

Shirley Jackson's narrative style in *\*We Have Always Lived in the Castle\** is notable for its subtlety and economy of language. Her prose is both lyrical and precise, crafting an eerie atmosphere without resorting to overt horror tropes. The use of first-person narration from Merricat's perspective adds an intimate yet unreliable voice, heightening the novel's psychological depth.

The pacing of the story is deliberate, with tension building gradually as secrets unravel. Jackson's skillful use of symbolism—such as the recurring motif of the blackbird and the ever-present threat of poison—imbues the narrative with layers of meaning. These literary devices enrich the reading experience, encouraging multiple interpretations and critical analysis.

## Comparing *\*We Have Always Lived in the Castle\** to Other Works

When placed alongside Shirley Jackson's other works, such as *\*The Haunting of Hill House\** and the short story "The Lottery," *\*We Have Always Lived in the Castle\** stands out for its intimate focus on family dynamics rather than external supernatural forces. While *\*The Haunting of Hill House\** explores haunted spaces and psychological terror, *\*We Have Always Lived in the Castle\** centers on internal hauntings—trauma, guilt, and mental illness.

Comparatively, the novel also shares thematic similarities with contemporary gothic literature and Southern Gothic classics, such as William Faulkner's works. Like Faulkner's characters, the Blackwoods are trapped by their pasts and social circumstances, creating a brooding atmosphere of inevitability and doom.

# Adaptations and Cultural Impact

The enduring appeal of *\*We Have Always Lived in the Castle\** has led to various adaptations and inspired numerous creative works. The most notable adaptation is the 2018 film directed by Stacie Passon, which brought the story to a new generation of viewers. While the film takes some liberties with the source material, it captures the novel's eerie mood and character complexities.

Beyond adaptations, the novel has influenced contemporary writers and artists who explore themes of isolation, mental health, and outsider status. Its cultural impact extends into discussions of feminist literature, as the story challenges traditional gender roles and portrays women who resist societal norms.

## Key Takeaways from *\*We Have Always Lived in the Castle\**

- Explores deep psychological themes through complex family relationships.
- Uses gothic elements to enhance tension and atmosphere without resorting to clichés.
- Challenges social prejudices and highlights the consequences of ostracism.
- Employs an unreliable narrator to deepen mystery and reader engagement.
- Balances literary artistry with accessibility, making it a staple in both academic and popular reading.

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*\*We Have Always Lived in the Castle\** remains a powerful and enigmatic novel that continues to invite readers into its shadowy world. Its exploration of human vulnerability, societal rejection, and the fragile boundaries of sanity ensures its place in the canon of American gothic literature. Whether examined through psychological, social, or literary lenses, the novel offers a rich, multifaceted experience that lingers long after the last page is turned.

## [We Have Always Lived In The Castle](#)

**we have always lived in the castle: We Have Always Lived in the Castle** Shirley Jackson, 2016-10-18 Part of the Penguin Orange Collection, a limited-run series of twelve influential and beloved American classics in a bold series design offering a modern take on the iconic Penguin

paperback Winner of the 2016 AIGA + Design Observer 50 Books | 50 Covers competition For the seventieth anniversary of Penguin Classics, the Penguin Orange Collection celebrates the heritage of Penguin's iconic book design with twelve influential American literary classics representing the breadth and diversity of the Penguin Classics library. These collectible editions are dressed in the iconic orange and white tri-band cover design, first created in 1935, while french flaps, high-quality paper, and striking cover illustrations provide the cutting-edge design treatment that is the signature of Penguin Classics Deluxe Editions today. We Have Always Lived in the Castle Taking readers deep into a labyrinth of dark neurosis, We Have Always Lived in the Castle is perhaps the crowning achievement of Shirley Jackson's brilliant career: a deliciously unsettling novel about a perverse, isolated, and possibly murderous family and the dramatic struggle that ensues when an unexpected visitor interrupts their unusual way of life.

**we have always lived in the castle: We Have Always Lived in the Castle** Shirley Jackson, 1962 The story of two sisters who have become recluses after the arsenic poisoning of four members of their family.

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**we have always lived in the castle: We Have Always Lived in the Castle** Shirley Jackson, 1967-10 THE STORY: The home of the Blackwoods near a Vermont village is a lonely, ominous abode, and Constance, the young mistress of the place, can't go out of the house without being insulted and stoned by the villagers. They have also composed a nasty s

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**we have always lived in the castle: Shirley Jackson's American Gothic** Darryl Hattenhauer, 2012-02-01 Best known for her short story The Lottery and her novel The Haunting of Hill House, Shirley Jackson produced a body of work that is more varied and complex than critics have realized. In fact, as Darryl Hattenhauer argues here, Jackson was one of the few writers to anticipate the transition from modernism to postmodernism, and therefore ranks among the most significant writers of her time. The first comprehensive study of all of Jackson's fiction, Shirley Jackson's American Gothic offers readers the chance not only to rediscover her work, but also to see how and why a major American writer was passed over for inclusion in the canon of American literature.

**we have always lived in the castle: The Significance of Sibling Relationships in Literature** JoAnna Stephens Mink, Janet Doubler Ward, 1993 If one does not have them, one is compelled to acknowledge and react to their non-existence.

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**we have always lived in the castle: Shirley Jackson's We Have Always Lived in the Castle** Maude Ashton, 2022

**we have always lived in the castle: Shirley Jackson** Bernice M. Murphy, 2005-10-19 Shirley Jackson was one of America's most prominent female writers of the 1950s. Between 1948 and 1965 she published six novels, one best-selling story collection, two popular volumes of her family chronicles and many stories, which ranged from fairly conventional tales for the women's magazine market to the ambiguous, allusive, delicately sinister and more obviously literary stories that were

closest to Jackson's heart and destined to end up in the more highbrow end of the market. Most critical discussions of Jackson tend to focus on *The Lottery* and *The Haunting of Hill House*. An author of such accomplishment--and one so fully engaged with the pressures and preoccupations of postwar America--merits fuller discussion. To that end, this collection of essays widens the scope of Jackson scholarship with new writing on such works as *The Road through the Wall* and *We Have Always Lived in the Castle*, and topics ranging from Jackson's domestic fiction to ethics, cosmology, and eschatology. The book also makes newly available some of the most significant Jackson scholarship published in the last two decades.

**we have always lived in the castle:** *Great Short Books* Kenneth C. Davis, 2023-09-19 An entertaining guide to some of the best short novels of all time looks at works from the eighteenth century to the present day, spanning multiple genres, cultures, and countries--

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**we have always lived in the castle: Shirley Jackson and Domesticity** Jill E. Anderson, Melanie R. Anderson, 2020-05-28 Shirley Jackson and Domesticity takes on American horror writer Shirley Jackson's domestic narratives – those fictionalized in her novels and short stories as well as the ones captured in her memoirs – to explore the extraordinary and often supernatural ways domestic practices and the ecology of the home influence Jackson's storytelling. Examining various areas of homemaking – child-rearing and reproduction, housekeeping, architecture and spatiality, the housewife mythos – through the theoretical frameworks of gothic, queer, gender, supernatural, humor, and architectural studies, this collection contextualizes Jackson's archive in a Cold War framework and assesses the impact of the work of a writer seeking to question the status quo of her time and culture.

**we have always lived in the castle: The Letters of Shirley Jackson** Shirley Jackson, 2022-07-19 A bewitchingly brilliant collection of never-before-published letters from the renowned author of “The Lottery” and *The Haunting of Hill House* NAMED ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR BY KIRKUS REVIEWS • “This biography-through-letters gives an intimate and warm voice to the imagination behind the treasury of uncanny tales that is Shirley Jackson’s legacy.”—Joyce Carol Oates Shirley Jackson is one of the most important American authors of the last hundred years and among our greatest chroniclers of the female experience. This extraordinary compilation of personal correspondence has all the hallmarks of Jackson’s beloved fiction: flashes of the uncanny in the domestic, sparks of horror in the quotidian, and the veins of humor that run through good times and bad. i am having a fine time doing a novel with my left hand and a long story—with as many levels as grand central station—with my right hand, stirring chocolate pudding with a spoon held in my teeth, and tuning the television with both feet. Written over the course of nearly three decades, from Jackson’s college years to six days before her early death at the age of forty-eight, these letters become the autobiography Shirley Jackson never wrote. As well as being a bestselling author, Jackson spent much of her adult life as a mother of four in Vermont, and the landscape here is often the everyday: raucous holidays and trips to the dentist, overdue taxes and frayed lines of Christmas lights, new dogs and new babies. But in recounting these events to family, friends, and colleagues, she turns them into remarkable stories: entertaining, revealing, and wise. At the same time, many of these letters provide fresh insight into the genesis and progress of Jackson’s writing over nearly three decades. The novel is getting sadder. It’s always such a strange feeling—I know something’s going to happen, and those poor people in the book don’t; they just go blithely on their ways. Compiled and edited by her elder son, Laurence Jackson Hyman, in consultation with Jackson

scholar Bernice M. Murphy and featuring Jackson's own witty line drawings, this intimate collection holds the beguiling prism of Shirley Jackson—writer and reader, mother and daughter, neighbor and wife—up to the light.

**we have always lived in the castle:** *The Cambridge History of the Gothic: Volume 3, Gothic in the Twentieth and Twenty-First Centuries* Angela Wright, Catherine Spooner, Dale Townshend, 2021-08-19 The first volume to provide an interdisciplinary, comprehensive history of twentieth and twenty-first century Gothic culture.

**we have always lived in the castle:** *Shirley Jackson, Influences and Confluences* Melanie R. Anderson, Lisa Kröger, 2016-05-20 The popularity of such widely known works as *The Lottery* and *The Haunting of Hill House* has tended to obscure the extent of Shirley Jackson's literary output, which includes six novels, a prodigious number of short stories, and two volumes of domestic sketches. Organized around the themes of influence and intertextuality, this collection places Jackson firmly within the literary cohort of the 1950s. The contributors investigate the work that informed her own fiction and discuss how Jackson inspired writers of literature and film. The collection begins with essays that tease out what Jackson's writing owes to the weird tale, detective fiction, the supernatural tradition, and folklore, among other influences. The focus then shifts to Jackson's place in American literature and the impact of her work on women's writing, campus literature, and the graphic novelist Alison Bechdel. The final two essays examine adaptations of *The Haunting of Hill House* and Jackson's influence on contemporary American horror cinema. Taken together, the essays offer convincing evidence that half a century following her death, readers and writers alike are still finding value in Jackson's words.

**we have always lived in the castle:** *Thirty Rooms to Hide In* Luke Sullivan, 2012 Author Luke Longstreet Sullivan has a simple way of describing his new memoir: "It's like *The Shining* . . . only funnier." And as this astonishing account reveals, the comment is accurate. *Thirty Rooms to Hide In* tells the story of Sullivan's father and his descent from being one of the world's top orthopedic surgeons at the Mayo Clinic to a man who is increasingly abusive, alcoholic, and insane, ultimately dying alone on the floor of a Georgia motel. For his wife and six sons, the years prior to his death were years of turmoil, anger, and family dysfunction; but somehow, they were also a time of real happiness for Sullivan and his five brothers, full of dark humor and much laughter. Through the 1950s and 1960s, the six brothers had a wildly fun and thoroughly dysfunctional childhood living in a forbidding thirty-room mansion, known as the Millstone, on the outskirts of Rochester, Minnesota. The many rooms of the immense home, as well as their mother's loving protection, allowed the Sullivan brothers to grow up as normal, mischievous boys. Against a backdrop of the times—the Cold War, the Cuban Missile Crisis, fallout shelters, JFK's assassination, and the Beatles—the cracks in their home life and their father's psyche continue to widen. When their mother decides to leave the Millstone and move the family across town, the Sullivan boys are able to find solace in each other and in rock 'n' roll. As *Thirty Rooms to Hide In* follows the story of the Sullivan family—at times grim, at others poignant—there is a wonderful, dark humor that lifts the narrative. Tragic, funny, and powerfully evocative of the 1950s and 1960s, *Thirty Rooms to Hide In* is a tale of public success and private dysfunction, personal and familial resilience, and the strange power of humor to give refuge when it is needed most, even if it can't always provide the answers.

**we have always lived in the castle:** *The Portrait of an Artist as a Pathographer: On Writing Illnesses and Illnesses in Writing* Jayjit Sarkar, Jagannath Basu, 2021-05-09 Focusing on the various intersections between illness and literature across time and space, *The Portrait of an Artist as a Pathographer* seeks to understand how ontological, phenomenological and epistemological experiences of illness have been dealt with and represented in literary writings and literary studies. In this volume, scholars from across the world have come together to understand how the pathological condition of being ill (the sufferers), as well as the pathologists dealing with the ill (the healers and caregivers), have shaped literary works. The language of medical science, with its jargon, and the language of the every day, with its emphasis on utility, prove equally insufficient and futile in capturing the pain and suffering of illness. It is this insufficiency and futility that makes us

turn towards the canonical works of Joseph Conrad, Samuel Beckett, William Carlos Williams, Virginia Woolf, Kazuo Ishiguro, Miroslav Holub as well as the non-canonical António Lobo Antunes, Yumemakura Baku, Wopko Jensma and Vaslav Nijinsky. This volume helps in understanding and capturing the metalanguage of illness while presenting us with the tradition of 'writing pain'. In an effort to expand the definition of pathography to include those who are on the other side of pain, the essays in this collection aim to portray the above-mentioned pathographers as artists, turning the anxiety and suffering of illness into an art form. Looking deeply into such creative aspects of illness, this book also seeks to evoke the possibility of pathography as world literature. This book will be of particular interest to undergraduate, postgraduate and research students, as well as scholars of literature and medical humanities who are interested in the intersections between literary studies and medical science.

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