



The Gothic Literature and History of New England

Secrets of the Restless Dead

By Faye Ringel

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“Faye Ringel’s latest book, *The Gothic Literature and History of New England*, is a treasure trove of horrors, charting the region’s history of religious fanaticism, racial intolerance, and ritualised violence, and its legacy in fiction and film from the Puritans to the present day. Scholars and fans of the genre will return again and again to Ringel’s meticulously researched volume for recommended reading material, inspiration, and insight.” — Dr Dara Downey, Trinity College Dublin, Ireland

The Gothic Literature and History of New England surveys the history, nature and future of the Gothic mode in the region, from the witch trials through the Black Lives Matter Movement. Texts include Cotton Mather and other Puritan divines who collected folklore of the supernatural; the Frontier Gothic of Indian captivity narratives; the canonical authors of the American Renaissance such as Melville and Hawthorne; the women’s ghost story tradition and the Domestic Gothic from Harriet Beecher Stowe to Charlotte Perkins Gilman to Shirley Jackson; H. P. Lovecraft; Stephen King; and writers of the current generation who respond to racial and gender issues. The work brings to the surface the religious intolerance, racism and misogyny inherent in the New England Gothic, and how these nightmares continue to haunt literature and popular culture—films, television and more.

Contents

Acknowledgments; Chronology; Introduction; 1. Gothic Origins; 2. The Puritans’ Haunted Frontier; 3. Haunting the Master’s House; 4. Beyond Lovecraft Country: Racism, Xenophobia, New Directions; Works Cited; Index.

About the Author

Faye Ringel, Professor Emerita of Humanities, US Coast Guard Academy, New London, Connecticut, has published extensively on the American Gothic.

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