



### California Gothic: The Dark Side of the Dream

By Charles L. Crow

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**Explores the dark side of the California Dream, as revealed in the state's rich tradition of Gothic literature and film.**

*California Gothic* explores the California dream and its dark inversion as a nightmare, as illustrated in fiction, poetry, and film. California began as a literary invention, a magic island, in a Spanish romance before conquistadors first visited the land. From early days to the present, the California dream of happiness in a land of new beginnings has been maintained by suppression of disturbing realities: above all, the destruction of native peoples; and by events and facts such as the tragedy of the Donner Party, the persistence of poverty and crime in the golden land, disturbing crimes such as the Black Dahlia; and pandemics and ecological disaster. This book explores a rich Gothic tradition that exposes the repressed past and imagines the fates awaiting a failed California.

#### Readership

Scholars of the Gothic and of California literature and culture; students and graduate students; general readers interested in the Gothic or California.

#### Key selling points

- Exposes the nightmares within the California Dream
- Explores California's literature from earliest days to the present
- Highly relevant to an age of pandemics and ecological collapse.

#### Contents

Contents; Chapter One- Dreams of the Magic Island; Chapter Two- Ambrose Bierce and San Francisco's Gothic Frontier; Chapter Three- Lost Coasts; Chapter Four- Disease, Pandemics, and the Monstrous; Chapter Five- The Shadow Line: Noir and California Gothic; Chapter Six- California Ecogothic: What's Buried in the Basement; Afterword

#### About the Author(s) / Editor(s)

Charles L. Crow, Professor Emeritus of Bowling Green State University, has authored and edited studies of American regional literatures and of American Gothic.

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