



Gothic Appalachian Literature

By Sarah Robertson

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This is an eye-opening book that examines the ways contemporary Appalachian authors utilize gothic tropes to explore the complex history and contemporary problems of the region, particularly in terms of their representation of economic, environmental, and political concerns.

Gothic Appalachian Literature examines the ways contemporary Appalachian authors utilize gothic tropes to explore the complex history and contemporary problems of the region, particularly in terms of their representation of economic and environmental concerns. It argues that across Appalachian fiction, the plight of characters to save their homes, land and way of life from the destructive forces of extractive industries brings sharply to bare the histories of colonization and slavery that problematize questions of belonging, ownership and possession.

Robertson extensively considers contemporary manifestations of the gothic in Appalachian literature, arguing that gothic tropes abound in fiction that focuses on the impacts of extractive industries that connect this micro-region with other parts of the Global North and Global South where the devastating impacts of extractive industries are also experienced socially, economically and environmentally.

Readership

The primary readership will be university students and scholars in the fields of Gothic literature and Appalachian, southern, environmental and climate change studies.

Key selling points

- Contributes to a growing field of eco-gothic studies.
- The focus on extractive industries and the climate crisis.
- The exploration of race and LGBTQ+ rights in Appalachia.
- The focus on the post-Trump moment in contemporary Appalachian literature.

About the Author(s) / Editor(s)

Dr Sarah Robertson is an Associate Professor in English Literature at UWE Bristol.

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