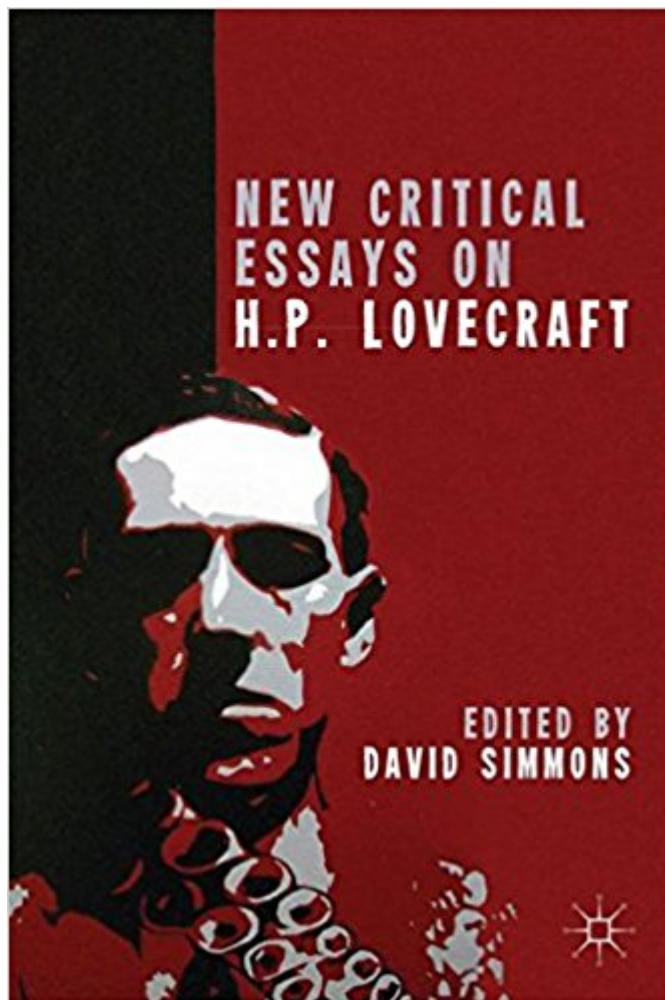


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New Critical Essays On H.P. Lovecraft



Synopsis

The last ten years have witnessed a renewed interest in H.P. Lovecraft in academic and scholarly circles. *New Critical Essays on H.P. Lovecraft* seeks to offer an expansive and considered account of a fascinating yet challenging writer; both popular and critically valid but also problematic in terms of his depictions of race, gender and class.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

It's not H. P. Lovecraft: Four Decades of Criticism, but it costs almost twice as much. This is a collection of twelve new essays critically examining the literature of H. P. Lovecraft...sort of. Most of the essayists here are academics who appear to be new to Lovecraft scholarship, if not popular culture, and their relative unfamiliarity with the basic critical literature really shows in places, particularly in editor David Simmon's inaugural essay "'A Certain Resemblance': Abject Hybridity in H. P. Lovecraft's Short Fiction.' Too many of the essayists rely too heavily on outdated sources like David Punter and L. Sprague de Camp, or else give equal weight to all Lovecraft critics and biographies; for many, the use of internet research over actual book research is particularly telling. The essays in the first half of the book are particularly dense and wonkish, attempting to examine HPL and his work through literary theories that are at best a rather poor fit, and at worst descend into vague attempts at postmortem psychoanalysis that repeat the sins of earlier critics in assigning to HPL vast neuroses and alienation from life and sexuality because of his nature or upbringing. On the upside, there is some cogent and even useful literary insight in the essays in this volume. While

I might not agree with all of the essayists conclusions, it is good to see more discussion of HPL's use of sexuality and female characters, and 'The Shadow over Derleth: Disseminating the Mythos in The Trail of Cthulhu' by J. S.

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