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Six Myths Of Our Time: Little Angels, Little Monsters, Beautiful Beasts, And More



Synopsis

Is Jurassic Park a work of covert misogynist propaganda? Does romanticizing childhood lead to abusing children? What secret correspondence links Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* to video games and Shakespeare's *Caliban* to Hannibal Lecter? In what ways do our culture's most hallowed legends inform the current debates over single mothers, the men's movement, and animal rights? In these six dazzlingly intelligent and provocative essays, the distinguished English novelist and critic Marina Warner weaves classical mythology, pop culture, and today's headlines into a potent work of cultural criticism that is both unsettling and entertaining. Ranging from Medea to *Thelma and Louise* and from myths of cannibalism to the politics of rape, *Six Myths of Our Time* is at once a celebration of the enduring power of fable and a welcome antidote to its more virulent manifestations in our public life.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

These essays are some of the most interesting essays I've read in years. Warner integrates fairy tales, Greek myths, anthropology, and current cultural objects, events, and pastimes to take on really interesting issues. Her essay "Boys will be Boys" is a must-read for gender classes; it discusses the lost narratives of masculinity, those that rewarded wit and cunning, and the current trend to show brute force prevailing. Those seeking to understand the Columbine shootings should have looked here first.

I loved Marina Warner's *Monuments and Maidens: The Allegory of the Female Form*, so when I saw this book, I had to have it. I have to say that I'm a little bit disappointed after *Monuments and Maidens*. I expected a more in-depth study. Instead, these six essays barely seem to scratch the surface of the topics. These essays are basically transcripts of six lectures Warner gave for BBC radio, which explains their brevity, but it's a shame she didn't expand upon them when she decided to publish them in print. Still, there are some very interesting things here. I would definitely recommend it if you're interested in folklore and are just starting your studies. For the advanced student, the book just leaves you wanting more.

While I would've loved to LOVE this book...I just couldn't. Marina Warner has barely scraped the surface of all there is to be said about myth and legend in connection with societal thinking in this little book (originally six essays for BBC radio). Each chapter undertakes a different aspect of society from women, to cannibalism, to our idealization of childhood. In all honesty, each one could've been a book in itself if expanded and pondered over. Due to the fact that each essay was relatively short it felt as if Warner's points were rushed and ill-researched. While I would put this book above some others that connect modern examples with myth, I still think that Warner could've done a more in-depth job and added more focus to individual chapters. They each seem to skip around a bit and lack effective organization. Don't get me wrong, there are a number of gems in the pages of this work. Warner draws interesting parallels between myth and folklore and how it continues to resurface in modern times whether it be film, writing, television, etc. She also cites numerous outside sources that sound fascinating and that inspired her work. In a way, this work is a jumping-off point into a throng of directions into cultural criticism.

Slim volume, quick read, and beautiful essays that have stood the test of time. I will now be searching out other works by this writer.

I really love reading Warner's work. Her analyses are sometimes surprising and often brilliant, the writing beautiful. I use this book in teaching Gender Psychology and when I wrote *The Secret Lives of Girls* (Free Press, 2002).

This was purchased for class professional reading and was an interesting title that provided many insightful ideas about the area of study.

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