

Love and Death in the American Novel


By *Leslie Fiedler*

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A retrospective article on Leslie Fiedler in the New York Times Book Review in 1965 referred to *Love and Death in the American Novel* as “one of the great, essential books on the American imagination . . . an accepted major work.” This groundbreaking work views in depth both American literature and character from the time of the American Revolution to the present. From it, there emerges Fiedler’s once scandalous?now increasingly accepted?judgment that our literature is incapable of dealing with adult sexuality and is pathologically obsessed with death.

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Love and Death in the American Novel By Leslie Fiedler Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #190466 in Books
- Published on: 1998-01-01
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.68" h x 1.42" w x 5.44" l, 1.35 pounds
- Binding: Perfect Paperback
- 520 pages

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Prof. Fiedler's entertaining account of the American Novel's obsessions remains one of the key works of American studies more than 30 years after its first appearance. New afterword by the author.

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Review

"Prof. Fiedler's entertaining account of the American novel's obsessions remains one of the key works of American studies more than 30 years after its first appearance." (Publishers Weekly)

"Genuinely original . . . a work of lasting importance . . . a powerful indictment of our culture and of modern culture in general." (Richard Chase)

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"In its insights the book remains immensely intelligent, immediate, and vital." (David Plante - Bookforum)

"It is not possible to read Leslie Fiedler's criticism without a sense of awe and excitement." (Los Angeles Times)

About the Author

Leslie Fiedler is Samuel Clemens Professor and SUNY Distinguished Professor at SUNY Buffalo. One of the greatest living literary critics, his works include LOVE AND DEATH IN THE AMERICAN NOVEL (1960), AN END TO INNOCENCE (1955); NUDE CROQUET (1969), and FREAKS (1978).

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