



Detecting Texts: The Metaphysical Detective Story from Poe to Postmodernism

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Although readers of detective fiction ordinarily expect to learn the mystery's solution at the end, there is another kind of detective story—the history of which encompasses writers as diverse as Poe, Borges, Robbe-Grillet, Auster, and Stephen King—that ends with a question rather than an answer. The detective not only fails to solve the crime, but also confronts insoluble mysteries of interpretation and identity. As the contributors to *Detecting Texts* contend, such stories belong to a distinct genre, the "metaphysical detective story," in which the detective hero's inability to interpret the mystery inevitably casts doubt on the reader's similar attempt to make sense of the text and the world.

Detecting Texts includes an introduction by the editors that defines the metaphysical detective story and traces its history from Poe's classic tales to today's postmodernist experiments. In addition to the editors, contributors include Stephen Bernstein, Joel Black, John T. Irwin, Jeffrey T. Nealon, and others.

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Editorial Review

Review

"Metaphysical detective stories reveal much about the relation of modernism to postmodernism and of high to low literary culture. *Detecting Texts* makes an excellent case for the coherence and breadth of the genre. Its broad scope, clear writing, and notable contributions to a number of literary subfields are among its many virtues."—Shawn Rosenheim, Williams College

"No currently available anthology addresses the topic of the metaphysical detective story so directly, so fully, or so relevantly."—Brian McHale, West Virginia University

About the Author

Patricia Merivale is Professor of English and Comparative Literature at the University of British Columbia. Susan Elizabeth Sweeney is Associate Professor of English at the College of the Holy Cross.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Linda Shell:

This book untitled *Detecting Texts: The Metaphysical Detective Story from Poe to Postmodernism* to be one of several books that best seller in this year, here is because when you read this publication you can get a lot of benefit in it. You will easily to buy this specific book in the book retailer or you can order it through online. The publisher in this book sells the e-book too. It makes you more easily to read this book, since you can read this book in your Mobile phone. So there is no reason for your requirements to past this publication from your list.

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