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Salem Press Announces the Newest Addition to its *Critical Insights* Series; *Critical Insights: The Hunger Games Trilogy*

Edited by Lana A. Whited, a Professor of English and Director of the Boone Honors Program at Ferrum College, *Critical Insights: The Hunger Games Trilogy* presents essays on one of the most popular literary titles in recent pop culture history. There are a variety of topics that can be discussed from *The Hunger Games Trilogy* and this title presents fourteen strong essays that have not been discussed in other Hunger Games-themed critical anthologies already published.

Beginning with **The Book and the Author**, Editor Lana A. Whited begins by providing an introduction to *The Hunger Games Trilogy* while Laurie Adams follows with a biography, “Suzanne Collins: One Life, Three Acts, Scripted by War” on the writer. The book then shifts to a series of four **Contextual Essays**, Tina L. Hanlon begins by providing an essay on the series’ literary lineage. Editor, Lana A. Whited follows with her essay, “Dystopian Copycat or YA Lit on Fire? The Critical Reception of *The Hunger Games* Novels” which provides readers with an understanding of how the trilogy has been appraised by book critics. Jackie C. Horne provides an illustration of how Reader-Response Criticism applies to *Mockingjay* and Amy H. Sturgis’s essay provides an understanding of the two predominant strands of dystopian fiction and how they appear in Collins’ series.

The next major section of the present volume, **Critical Readings**, comprises essays that are as diverse as their authors. Beginning with a discussion on gender, Danielle Bienvenue Bray argues for Suzanne Collins’ sympathetic presentation of any characters demonstrating traditionally feminine attitudes and behaviors, regardless of those characters’ gender. In “Game Macabre: Fear as an Essential Element in *The Hunger Games*,” Rebecca Sutherland Borah investigates Collins’ use of horror and terror to achieve emotional resonance in her depiction of the oppression and debauchery of the Capitol and the monstrosity of war. Stephanie Dror discusses “The nature of Consumerism” in the first novel from an ecocritical perspective, positing that Collins illustrates “the postmodernist claim that we inhabit a prosthetic [simulated] environment” rather than a natural one; thus, from an environmentalist standpoint, one of the dystopian author’s cautions here is against humanity’s destruction of the ecosystem via a cycle of consumerism like the Capitol’s. From concerns grounded in the natural sciences in Dror’s essay, the next essay moves to the social sciences by Louise M Freeman who provides a primer on the scientific principles underlying hijacking in which Freeman explains how Pavlovian conditioning models help clinicians understand post-traumatic stress disorder. “Where you can starve to death in safety’: Appalachia and *The Hunger Games*” is the contribution of Elizabeth Baird Hardy,

who identifies the physical, cultural, and historical elements of Collins' narrative that allow readers to locate Katniss' home region on a real map, while also examining how traditional stereotypes of Appalachian people are manifested in the series. Other essay topics are:

- “What I did was a radical thing”: Panem’s Corrupted Gift Economy by Amy Bennett-Zendzian
- “Labyrinthine Challenges and Degenerate Strategies in *The Hunger Games*” by Lars Schmeink
- “The Girl within the Mockingjay: Roman Allusions, Repercussions of War, and Ideological Transformation” by Amalia L. Selle
- “The Presidents and Power: Machiavellian Elements in *The Hunger Games Series*” by Todd Ide
- “*The Hunger Games Series* as Text for the Democracy, Justice, and Civic Engagement Classroom” by Sandra Via

Each essay in *Critical Insights: The Hunger Games Trilogy* is 2,500 to 5,000 words in length, and all essays conclude with a list of Works Cited and detailed endnotes. Also included in this volume are **Appendixes** to provide readers with additional information and opportunities for further research, including a **Chronology of Suzanne Collins’ Life**, a list of **Works by Suzanne Collins**, an annotated **Bibliography**, biographies of the **Editors** and **Contributors**, and an alphabetical **Index**.

The *Critical Insights Series* distills the best of both classic and current literary criticism of the world's most studied literature. Edited and written by some of academia's most distinguished literary scholars, *Critical Insights: The Hunger Games Trilogy* provides authoritative, in-depth scholarship that students and researchers will rely on for years. This volume is destined to become a valuable purchase for all.

Free Online with Print Purchase.

In addition, *Critical Insights: The Hunger Games Trilogy* comes with complimentary online access via <http://online.salempress.com>. A single purchase of the printed version is all it takes to gain access to this important title on the web.

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