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Contact: Jessica Moody, VP Marketing  
(800) 562-2139 x101  
jmoody@greyhouse.com

## **Salem Press Announces a New Addition to the *Critical Insights* Series *Critical Insights: All the Pretty Horses***

Cormac McCarthy's *All the Pretty Horses* is one of the most well-known works of the last four decades. The first of McCarthy's Border Trilogy, it won both the National Book Critics Circle Award and the National Book Award. Taking place in 1949, the novel explores the intimate story of relationships while at the same time presenting a global consideration of the American economic expansion that would set the tone for the second half of the twentieth century.

This scholarly collection brings to light a wide range of insights into the novel that thrust McCarthy into the spotlight as one of the greatest writers of the late twentieth to early twenty-first century. One of Salem's most popular series, *Critical Insights* distills the best of both class and literary criticism of the world's most studied literature. As such, this volume aims to be broad in its discussions and discourse, as well as accessible to the thoughtful reader. The essays within this collection thus attempt to provide an all-embracing critical analysis of one of the most popular and well-respected works by one of the most highly acclaimed writers of the last 40 years.

This volume features 14 in-depth, yet accessible, essays that provide readers and researchers with several avenues into the complex and elusive work that is McCarthy's *All the Pretty Horses*. It begins with two essays on the historical context and the critical reception of the novel; each of which addresses the influence of the time period, explores the influence of the text upon and within the canon, and plumbs specific details that have captured audiences at its publication, through to today's readership.

A collection of four critical contexts essays are intended to treat the novel

- 1) From a historical vantage point
  - 2) In terms of its critical reception
  - 3) Using a specific critical lens
  - 4) And by comparing and contrasting it with another important work.
- This volume begins with "*All the Pretty Horses: McCarthy's Breakthrough into the American Canon*," a brief charting of McCarthy's ascension to canonical status that came with the publication of *All the Pretty Horses*.

- J. Gavin Paul’s comprehensive biography collects about as much as we know on McCarthy and sheds a beam of light on the life of a rather reclusive literary figure (he rarely granted interviews), and his interview with Oprah Winfrey.
- Melinda Knight’s masterful essay on the historical context of *All the Pretty Horses* painstakingly maps the novel’s importance in context with the evolving world around it. She establishes a strong foundation for readership in acknowledging the title as having come from a traditional lullaby known as “Hush Hush-a-bye.”
- Amy Leshinsky charts the novel’s evolving reception in her essay, “*All the Pretty Horses* Alters the Reception and Prestige of McCarthy.” Indeed, as she remarks, “little attention had been paid to Cormac McCarthy’s earlier works,” although a handful of critics and literary-minded readers had recognized his talent from the start.

After these first four essays, the collection follows with a comparative essay, as well as an essay that utilizes a focused critical lens to provide a focused, in-depth reading of *ATPH*. The concluding sections are valuable resources for researchers, including a chronology of McCarthy’s life and a comprehensive bibliography (both compiled by Montclair State University graduate assistant, Alyssa Roberts) and index.

*Critical Insights* provides authoritative insights and analysis suitable for students and teachers alike. Students come away with an enriched sense of the many ways the themes can be studied, appreciated, written, and talked about, making these important connections themselves with easy-to-use guidance:

- “. . . one thing more of things she lay among”: Ecological Form in McCarthy’s *All the Pretty Horses*
- Aldo Leopold’s Land Ethic in McCarthy’s *All the Pretty Horses*
- The Use of Polysyndeton and Cinematic Montage in Faulkner’s *As I Lay Dying* and McCarthy’s *All the Pretty Horses*
- The Landscape of Grief: Dispossession and Self-Discovery in McCarthy’s *All the Pretty Horses* and Woolf’s *To the Lighthouse*
- Under the Influence: Melville, Bloodlines, and McCarthy’s *All the Pretty Horses*
- The Cowboy and the American Dream: Charting the Binaries of the West in McCarthy’s *All the Pretty Horses*
- John Grady Cole as an Example of (Non)Traditional Western Masculinity in McCarthy’s *All the Pretty Horses*
- The Quest for Romantic Love: The Role of Women in *All the Pretty Horses*
- Puppets Upon Puppets Upon Puppets: Forces at Play in the Mother’s Construction in *All the Pretty Horses*
- Confronting the Capitalocene: Capitalism, Culture, and Codes in *All the Pretty Horses*

Each essay in *Critical Insights: All the Pretty Horses* includes a list of **Works Cited** and detailed endnotes. In the final section, **Resources**, easy-to-follow lists are provided to help guide the reader through important dates and moments in the author’s life, beginning with a **Chronology of Cormac McCarthy’s Life**. This is followed by a list of **Works by Cormac McCarthy** and a **Bibliography**. Finally, this section closes with an **About the Editor** section, **Contributors**, and a detailed **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: All the Pretty Horses* 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.

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