

# SALEM PRESS

Published & Distributed by Grey House Publishing

## For Immediate Release

September 20, 2024

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## **Salem Press Announces a New Addition to the *Critical Insights* Series** ***Critical Insights: The Supernatural***

Incorporating a sense of mystery, danger, and fear of the unknown, supernatural literature has excited readers for centuries. From vampires to ghosts, to seemingly possessed paintings, this category of literature explores the relationship between our reality as we normally experience it and what lurks beyond.

This new addition to the *Critical Insights* series guides readers through the historical, philosophical, and sociological perspectives of supernatural literature and examines the artistic effectiveness of supernatural writings. The ways in which supernatural literature has influenced the media and the reception of different writings in this category are explored as well.

In the introductory essay, volume editor Robert C. Evans discusses the organization of the essays within the text, providing brief summaries. The introduction also suggests valuable ways to approach the study of the supernatural within literature.

A collection of four Critical Contexts essays is intended to view the supernatural within literature

- 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.

The four **Critical Context** essays include:

- *The Wonders of the Invisible World*: Cotton Mather's Supernatural Classic
- "Stay, illusion": Shakespeare's Supernatural Dimension
- Magic, Mutants, and Men of Steel: Science Fiction and the Supernatural in Superhero Comics
- Supernatural Probability Distributions in Comedy and Tragedy: More Lysistratas and Fewer Lears

Following these four Critical Context essays is the **Critical Readings** section of this book, which contains the following essays:

- The BBC’s “Supernatural” Recreation of Dante’s *Divine Comedy* as an Effective Radio Drama
- “That Faustus may be a spirit in form and substance”: Body, Spirit, and the Supernatural in Marlowe’s *Doctor Faustus*
- Fairies, Witches, Spirits, and Elves: The Supernatural at the Crossroads in *Jane Eyre*
- Functions of the Supernatural in Dickens’s Short Fiction
- Educating Miles: Thinking the Evil in *The Turn of the Screw*
- Eight Ways of Viewing Oscar Wilde’s Supernatural *Picture of Dorian Gray*
- Daphne du Maurier’s Fiction of the Gothic and Supernatural
- Techniques, Symbols, and Varied Contexts in Shirley Jackson’s *The Haunting of Hill House*
- Stephen King, S. T. Joshi, and the Supernatural Style of King’s *The Shining*

Each essay in *Critical Insights: The Supernatural* includes a list of **Works Cited** and detailed endnotes. In the final section, **Resources**, provides a list of Additional Works on The Supernatural for those who wish to further explore this theme followed by 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: The Supernatural* 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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*Critical Insights: The Supernatural*

Pub. Date: August 2024

Hardcover ISBN: 978-1-63700-740-2

285 pages

\$105.00

Ebook ISBN: 978-1-63700-741-9