## The Picture of Dorian Gray and Gothicism



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(Ms. Dasia Mann)

#### THE PICTURE OF DORIAN GRAY AND GOTHICISM



Grin Verlag. Paperback. Condition: New. 40 pages. Dimensions: 8.2in. x 5.7in. x 0.2in.Seminar paper from the year 2005 in the subject English - Literature, Works, grade: 1, 7, Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz (Seminar fr Englische Philologie), course: Hauptseminar , 12 entries in the bibliography, language: English, abstract: Today, a Gothic novel is commonly defined as a story of terror and suspense, usually set in a gloomy old castle or monastery. This definition is based on the traditional Gothic novel, which was originated by Horace Walpole in 1764. A number of elements came to be classed as Gothic and by the end of the century, the genre was fully established. However, when examining different Gothic works that have been published since the beginning of the Gothic tradition, one finds that the Gothic cannot be reduced to a scary story with a medieval setting. The Gothic is a genre that changes over time. The traditional elements usually persist, but new features are added to enrich the genre and to catch the spirit of the time. Kelly Hurley made the important observation that the Gothic is rightly . . . understood as a cyclical genre that re-emerges in times of cultural stress in order to negotiate anxieties for its readership by working through them in displaced (sometimes supernaturalized) form. When a nation is exposed to either internal or external threats, which often cannot be clearly defined, the people begin to feel uncomfortable. The Gothic novel then, according to Hurley, can help these people in distress by giving concrete shapes to their fears. When the Gothic novel first came up at the end of the 18th century, people in Britain were coping with the impact of the French Revolution. The tradition flourished until the 1820s, when Charles Maturins work Melmoth the...



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