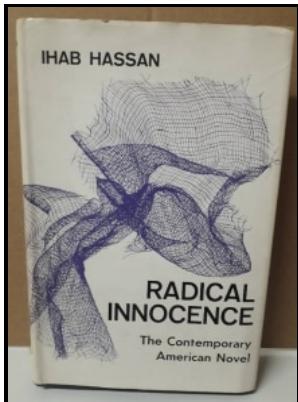


Radical innocence, studies in the contemporary American novel.

Princeton University Press - Radical Innocence: Studies in the Contemporary American Novel, by Ihab Hassan



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Ihab Hassan, Radical Innocence: Studies in the Contemporary American Novel

In addition he has delivered more than 500 public lectures in North America, Europe, Asia, Africa, Australia, and New Zealand.

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Lawrence and hints of mythic quest. The University of Wisconsin Press, a division of the UW-Madison Graduate School, has published more than 3000 titles, and currently has more than 1500 scholarly, regional, and general interest books in print.

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Hassan has taken for his central argument. This sort of circularity of argument, however, merely reflects the central weakness of Radical Innocence: its failure to find adequate connections between its broad moral concerns and the specifically literary nature of the texts it seeks to illuminate. Now, existential man, as Radical Innocence itself uses the term, is a creature who is flung into an utterly meaningless world and who struggles bravely or desperately to create his own meaning.

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Then, after some interesting if cryptic reflections on the moral qualities of irony, Mr. Author: Journal: Bulletin of the British Association for

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Recently, he has published many short stories in various literary magazines and is completing a novel, *The Changeling*. Hassan can scarcely be blamed for not saying anything vitally new about Dostoevsky, Nietzsche, Kafka, Camus, Mark Twain, and Henry James, the impact of Hiroshima, and the rise of the organization man—each of which he feels impelled to grapple with in the space of a paragraph or two. Having set himself such an impossibly large task, Mr.

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But there is not the slightest hint of a meaningless world in the Book of Job; on the contrary, Job is very certain of the meaning that should obtain in the world, and he protests but does not rebel because the just order he knows should exist has not extended itself to his own experience.

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