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Mapping the Modern Mind: Virginia Woolfs Parodic Approach to the Art of Fiction in Jacobs Room

By Lindy van Rooyen

Diplomica Verlag Gmbh. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Paperback. 128 pages. Dimensions: 8.3in. x 5.8in. x 0.3in. In this study the author conducts a close reading of Virginia Woolfs first experimental novel, Jacobs Room (1922). Her reading is based on the fundamental premise that the novel is an exploration of fictional form, rather than an exposition of any preconceived idea. Jacobs Room is an essentially modernist text, and is characterised by extensive genre-mixing typical of the art of fiction in the early 20th century. Throughout her study the author analyses the extent to which the novel transgress the boundaries of the novelistic genre. She explores the generic interface between the novel and those genres which are deemed to be innate to Virginia Woolfs sensibility, i. e. the journalistic essay, biography and impressionist painting. The premise of this study leads the author to read the novel on two levels of significance: On the narrative, surface level of the novel, Woolf constructs the tragic life of a promising young Englishman, Jacob Flanders, who dies in the First World War. Simultaneously, on the metafictional level of significance, Woolf, through her garrulous narrator, mocks and evaluates the actions of her characters, experimenting with various points of...



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