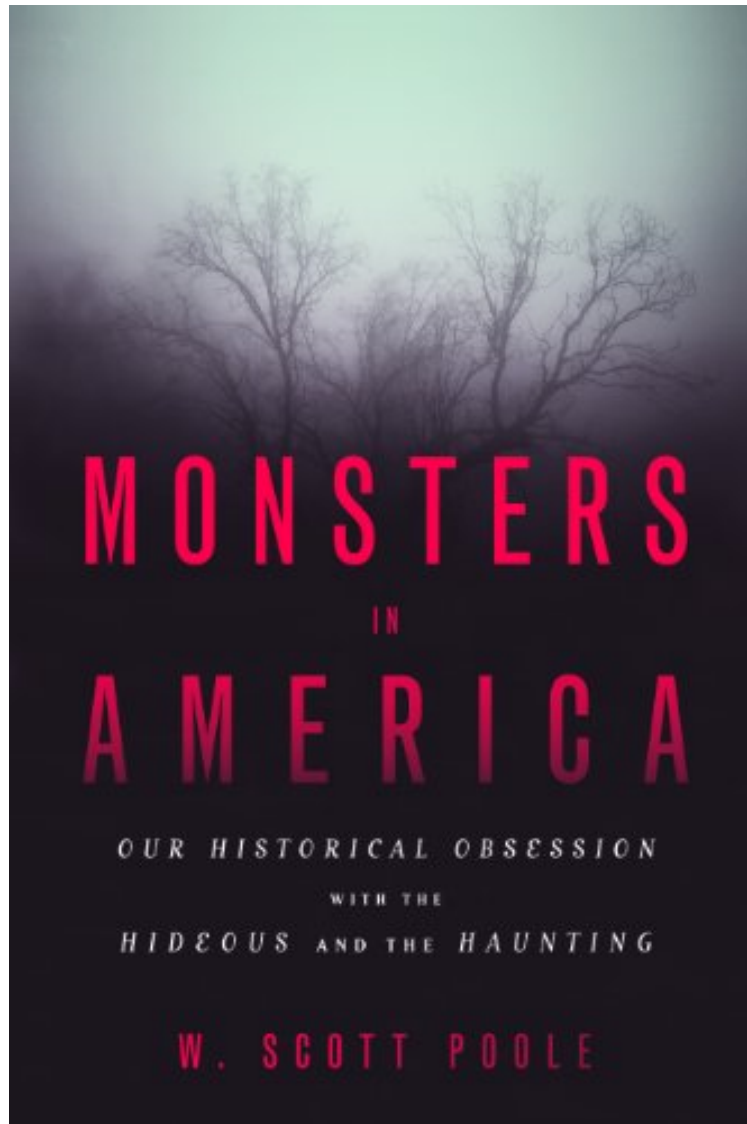


(Read and download) Monsters in America: Our Historical Obsession with the Hideous and the Haunting

Monsters in America: Our Historical Obsession with the Hideous and the Haunting

W. Scott Poole

*ebooks / Download PDF / *ePub / DOC / audiobook*



DOWNLOAD



READ ONLINE

#144006 in Books Baylor University Press 2014-01-31 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.02 x .67 x 5.981, .96 #File Name: 1602584664295 pages Baylor University Press | File size: 55.Mb

W. Scott Poole : Monsters in America: Our Historical Obsession with the Hideous and the Haunting before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised *Monsters in America: Our Historical Obsession with the Hideous and the Haunting*:

8 of 8 people found the following review helpful. Scarey and Meaningful for these times By Abbie I heard the author on Coast to Coast, and even though he had that dry, flat Midwestern accent (sort of like Margaret Hamilton in "The

Wizard of Oz") I knew I had to get the book. What is it that rumbles in the American unconscious that relates to the figures we see on the screen. In his comments on the 1931 "Frankenstein" W. Scott Poole, relates that the idea of the "abnormal brain" that Fritz grabs for Henry Frankenstein being the cause of the monster's murderous mentality being a reflection of the "scientific rascism" of the day. Just about all the scary things that crawl into popular media hail from the leaf-littered shadowy forests that haunt the American mind. The kind of monsters depends on the era. Frankenstein (1931) happens when somebody tries to make a more perfect human. Dracula (1931) is based on the fear of foreigners and disease. Newer movies like "Terminator," shows what happens when we place our trust in machines. And I don't have to mention the meaning of all the zombie movies. This book is great if you want a good read that sorts out all the sociological issues springing forth like new shoots under the mold of old horror movies (and like a good metaphor). It's also an easy and informative read for anybody having to do a paper on the history of race and racism and how it's reflected in the popular culture. Poole is brutally honest about the horrors of our past and how it been softened by the big (and little) screen. The book also (maybe unintentionally) has insights for every aspiring horror filmmaker. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Monsters, monsters, everywhere! By Saun An amazing book for anyone interested in monsters, American history, or both. Poole's theory that we create our monsters based on cultural and sociological fears and that monsters absorb meaning is highly interesting and well proved. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Its a fun read with a lot of insightful looks at American ... By Psychoclock This book was exactly what I needed (bought for a college class). Its a fun read with a lot of insightful looks at American Culture.

"The American past reads like something of a horror movie, maybe even a low-budget slasher. American history comes at us dripping with gore, victims lying scattered on the ground, eldritch moonlight revealing creeping horrors you never learned from your eighth grade history textbook. The history of the United States offers a chamber of horrors, with clergy transforming the Native American other into demonic beings, mad scientists turning state-funded laboratories into torture chambers, and the photographic revolution of the Victorian era turning toward a morbid fascination with the bodies of the dead and the creation of the category of 'gore.' History is horror." excerpted from the Introduction Salem witches, frontier wilderness beasts, freak show oddities, alien invasions, Freddie Krueger. From our colonial past to the present, the monster in all its various forms has been a staple of American culture. A masterful survey of our grim and often disturbing past, *Monsters in America* uniquely brings together history and culture studies to expose the dark obsessions that have helped create our national identity. Monsters are not just fears of the individual psyche, historian Scott Poole explains, but are concoctions of the public imagination, reactions to cultural influences, social change, and historical events. Conflicting anxieties about race, class, gender, sexuality, religious beliefs, science, and politics manifest as haunting beings among the populace. From Victorian-era mad scientists to modern-day serial killers, new monsters appear as American society evolves, paralleling fluctuating challenges to the cultural status quo. Consulting newspaper accounts, archival materials, personal papers, comic books, films, and oral histories, Poole adroitly illustrates how the creation of the monstrous "other" not only reflects society's fears but shapes actual historical behavior and becomes a cultural reminder of inhuman acts.

"... one of the best reads of the year." Dave Canfield, Fangoria "From 19th century sea serpents to our current Publishers Weekly session with vampires and zombies, ... Poole plots America's past through its fears in this intriguing ... sociocultural history." Publishers Weekly "Poole ... has set the bar ridiculously high for any future research exploring the locus of historical and cultural studies, particularly as it pertains to the horrific. ... *Monsters In America* challenges, enlightens, and, quite honestly, frightens in its prescient view of American history, as well as the seeming ubiquity of the monsters of our past and probable future." The Crawlspace "A well informed, thoughtful, and indeed frightening angle of vision to a persistent and compelling American desire to be entertained by the grotesque and the horrific." Gary Laderman, Professor of American Religious History and Cultures, Emory University "Poole brings to life American horror stories by framing them within folk belief, religion, and popular culture, broadly unraveling the idea of the monster. Thanks to Poole's insights we see the ubiquity of the monster lurking in and around us." John David Smith, Charles H. Stone Distinguished Professor of American History, The University of North Carolina at Charlotte "With *Monsters in America*, W. Scott Poole has given us a guidebook for a journey into nightmare territory. Insightful and brilliant!" Jonathan Maberry, New York Times bestselling author of *Patient Zero* and *Dead of Night* "Poole's connection of the monster to American history is a kind of Creature Features meets American cultural history. Here we not only meet such monsters but also discover America's cultural monstrosity." John W. Morehead, editor, www.TheoFantastique.com "An unexpected guilty pleasure! Poole invites us into an important and enlightening, if disturbing, conversation about the very real monsters that inhabit the dark spaces of America's past." J. Gordon Melton, Director, Institute for the Study of American Religion "A well informed, thoughtful, and indeed frightening angle of vision to a persistent and compelling American desire to be entertained by the grotesque and the horrific." Gary Laderman, Professor of American Religious History and Cultures, Emory University " *Monsters in America* is an important contribution, and it will be enjoyed by literary and cultural historians alike." Nicole K. Konopka, American Studies "A captivating read..." Amanda Rock, Slug " *Monsters in America* is lively and entertaining

throughout. The book's unusual range is one of its contributions; its freshness of juxtaposition is another."Elizabeth Young, Mount Holyoke College, American Historical "Monsters in America does a bang-up job of demonstrating how our culture helps us achieve some sort of understanding about our world and our lives. Poole's examples are well-chosen and well-explicated. It is a frightening world we live in, yet the horrific things in our literature and culture play a vital part in helping us reach some understanding, and even some peace about them."Greg Garrett, Faithful Citizenship blogger and author of One Fine Potion: The Literary Magic of Harry Potter"Numerous scholars explore the cultural and political implications of monster and horror films for the times from which they emerge.... Few scholars connect such implications across broader expanses of time to reveal how intrinsically monsters and the horrific have been bound up in the history of America. Even fewer scholars do so as adeptly and as entertainingly as W. Scott Poole."J. Ryan Parker, Pop Theology"... incredibly rewarding and fulfilling reading.... Monsters in America has without a doubt earned a spot on my favorite books of 2011. Highly recommended."Jenn's Bookshelves"[Poole's] book is sufficiently clear and engaging for general readers to enjoy and would make a worthwhile addition to undergraduate course in American history or culture."Aaron John Gulyas, Nova Religio"Historian W. Scott Poole distinguishes himself by focusing on the American context, providing a history told through the personified expressions of our anxieties and fears. In the follow-up to his first book, Satan in America, Poole has now turned his attention to the monsters that inhabit American cinema and American imaginations."Christopher James Blythe, Florida State University, Journal of Religion and Popular CultureFrom the Inside FlapThe history of America -- one fear, one monster, at a timeAbout the AuthorW. Scott Poole grew up in love with monsters. Now a tenured professor of American History at the College of Charleston, South Carolina, he teaches popular courses on America and its monsters as well as on the image of the Devil in religion and popular culture. He is the author of several books including Satan in America: The Devil We Know and is a regular contributor to www.popmatters.com, an international magazine of cultural criticism.