

The Thanatos Syndrome By Walker Percy

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The Postmodern Syndrome
Love in the Ruins and The Thanatos Syndrome
Curriculum Development in the Postmodern Era
The Fiction of Walker Percy
Desire, Violence & Divinity in Modern Southern Fiction
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returning home to the small louisiana parish where he had practiced psychiatry dr tom more quickly notices something strange occuring with the townfolk a loss of inhibitions behind this mystery is a dangerous plot drug the local water supply and a discovery that takes more into the underside of the american search for happiness

a pair of profound dystopian novels from the brilliantly breathtaking new york times bestselling and national book award winning author of the moviegoer the new york times book review winner of the national book award for the moviegoer the dazzlingly gifted southern philosophical author walker percy wrote two vividly imagined satirical novels of america s future featuring deeply flawed psychiatrist and spiritual seeker tom more usa today love in the ruins is a great adventure so outrageous and so real one is left speechless chicago sun times and its sequel the thanatos syndrome shimmers with intelligence and verve newsday love in the ruins the great experiment of the american dream has failed the united states is on the brink of catastrophe can an alcoholic womanizing lapsed catholic psychiatrist really save a society speeding toward inevitable collapse dr thomas more certainly thinks so he has invented the lapsometer a machine capable of diagnosing and curing the country s spiritual afflictions if used correctly the lapsometer could make anxiety depression alienation and racism things of the past but in the wrong hands it could rapidly propel the nation into chaos a comedy of love against a field of anarchy percy is easily one of the finest writers we have the new york times book review the thanatos syndrome in percy s ingenious sequel dr tom more fresh out of prison after getting caught selling uppers to truck drivers returns home to louisiana determined to live a simpler life the new york times but when everyone in town starts acting strangely from losing their sexual inhibitions to speaking only in blunt truncated sentences more with help from his cousin epidemiologist lucy lipscomb takes it upon himself to investigate together they uncover a government conspiracy poised to rob its citizens of their selves their free will and ultimately their humanity the thanatos syndrome has the ambition and purposefulness to take on the world to wrestle with its shortcomings and to celebrate its glories the washington post book world

this landmark text was one of the first to introduce and analyze contemporary concepts of curriculum that emerged from the reconceptualization of curriculum studies in the 1970s and 1980s this new edition brings readers up to date on the major research themes postmodernism ecological hermeneutics aesthetics and arts based research race class gender sexuality and classroom practices within the historical development of the field from the 1950s to the present like the previous editions it is unique in providing a comprehensive overview in a relatively short and highly accessible text provocative and powerful narratives both biography and autoethnography throughout invite readers to engage the complex theories in a personal conversation school based examples allow readers to make connections to schools and society teacher education and professional development of teachers changes in the third edition new glossary brief summaries in the text direct readers to the companion website to read the entire entries new analysis of the current accountability movement in schoolsincluding the charter school movement more international references clearly connected to international contexts more narratives invite readers to engage the complex theories in a personal conversation companion website new for this edition

hardy s study is concerned only with percy s fiction rather than his life thought or his essays he covers all six of percy s novels from the moviegoer 1961 to the thanatos syndrome 1987 and treats them only as fiction rather than as philosophical disquisitions or religious treatises hardy presents a close reading of each novel focusing on the internal artistic consistency of the works in regard to their subgenres adopted conventions narrative focus and reader text interactions he reveals percy as a judicious and knowledgeable practitioner in control of his medium isbn 0 252 01387 5 24 95

in this study gary m ciuba examines how four of the south s most probing writers of twentieth century fiction katherine anne porter flannery o connor cormac mccarthy and walker percy expose the roots of violence in southern culture ciuba draws on the paradigm of mimetic violence developed by cultural and literary critic rene girard who maintains that individual human nature is shaped by the desire to imitate a model book jacket

in walker percy books of revelations gary m ciuba examines how percy s apocalyptic vision inspires the structure themes and strategies of his fiction this book explores the unity of the southern novelist s fiction by focusing on its religious and artistic design one of the first studies to approach percy s work from this perspective ciuba considers percy s six published novels the moviegoer the last gentleman love in the ruins lancelet the second coming and the thanatos syndrome and also offers the first extended critical analysis of his unpublished work the gramercy winner although the novels are often seen as increasingly satiric jeremiads about the possible doom of america ciuba argues that percy s fiction is principally shaped by a demythologized and partially realized form of eschatology this apocalyptic vision has less to do with the end of the external world than with the demise of the protagonists internal worldviews according to ciuba percy does more than offer direly comic warnings about the end of the world he shows how the world actually ends and then may begin again in the everyday lives and extraordinary loves of his astonished seers

walker percy 1916 1990 considered novels the strongest tool with which to popularize great ideas among a broad audience and more than half a century after they first appeared in print his works of fiction continue to fascinate contemporary readers despite their lasting appeal however percy s engaging narratives also contain intellectual elements that demand further explication philosophical themes including existentialism language acquisition theory and modern catholic theology provide a deeper layer of meaning in percy s writings jessica booten wilson s reading walker percy s novels serves as a companion guide for readers who enjoy percy s novels but may be less familiar with the works of sartre camus kierkegaard and dante in addition to clarifying percy s philosophies wilson highlights allusions to other writers within his narratives addresses historical and political contexts and provides insight into the creation and reception of the moviegoer the last gentleman love in the ruins lancelet the second coming and the thanatos syndrome an introduction covers aspects of percy s biography that influenced his writing including his deep southern roots faith and search for meaning in life an appendix offers an explanation of percy s satirical parody lost in the cosmos the last self help book written in an accessible and conversational style this primer will appeal to everyone who appreciates the nuances of walker percy s fiction

this text which is by no means inclusive of all of the world s apocalyptic writings is intended both as an introduction to this timely literary genre as well as a tribute to the world s major authors whose prose and poetry reflect their respective hopes dreams and fears for the world s last days although the book is intended to address apocalyptic literature across cultures there is a significant dearth of material related to works by writers from eastern cultures this omission is an obvious one inasmuch as the concept of an apocalypse or a singular cataclysmic ending is essentially antithetical to most cyclical eastern philosophies in an attempt to analyze such apocalyptic themes of either non western primitive or pre literate cultures a list of entries pertaining to significant apocalyptic myths legends and scriptures has been provided in appendix d

the volume is based on an international colloquium held in vienna under the auspices of the austrian academy of sciences and the british academy it contains contributions by prominent experts on the culture literature popular music and history of the american south and its role as an arena for cultural interaction the more than 30 essays provide analyses of the long standing cultural exchange between this region and the old world from the 18th century to the present with the resulting cross fertilization in literature and in the cinema it also includes essays on the european experiences of prominent southern authors and their reception in europe and illustrates the fact that this region of the united states has been open to influences from elsewhere prone to hybridization but especially to the impact of the transatlantic exchange a field of research particularly appropriate in an era of an increasing internationalization of interdisciplinary southern studies

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