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We Are What We Mourn: The Contemporary English-Canadian Elegy



Synopsis

In *We Are What We Mourn* Priscila Uppal examines why and how the work of mourning has drastically changed in the latter half of the twentieth century, focusing on the strong pattern in contemporary English-Canadian elegy that emphasizes connection rather than separation between the living and the dead. Uppal offers a penetrating reading of Canadian elegies that radically challenges English and American elegy traditions as well as long-standing psychological models for successful mourning. She sets up useful categories for elegy study - parental elegies, elegies for places, and elegies for cultural losses and displacements - and suggests where elegy and mourning studies might be headed post 9/11. The first book on the Canadian poetic elegy, *We Are What We Mourn* challenges all previous ideas about the purpose of mourning and will intrigue anyone interested in how mourning shapes cultural identity.

Book Information

Hardcover: 318 pages

Publisher: McGill-Queen's University Press (November 20, 2008)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0773534563

ISBN-13: 978-0773534568

Product Dimensions: 6 x 1.1 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.3 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

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