



Victorian Demons: Medicine, Masculinity, and the Gothic at the Fin-De-SieCle (Paperback)

By Andrew W. M. Smith

MANCHESTER UNIVERSITY PRESS, United Kingdom, 2004. Paperback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book. Victorian demons provides the first extensive exploration of largely middle-class masculinities in crisis at the fin de siecle. It analyses how ostensibly controlling models of masculinity became demonised in a variety of literary and medical contexts, revealing the period to be much more ideologically complex than has hitherto been understood, and makes a significant contribution to Gothic scholarship. Andrew Smith demonstrates how a Gothic language of monstrosity, drawn from narratives such as The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde and Dracula , increasingly influenced a range of medical and cultural contexts, destabilising these apparently dominant masculine scripts. He provides a coherent analysis of a range of examples relating to masculinity drawn from literary, medical, legal and sociological contexts, including Joseph Merrick (The Elephant Man), the Whitechapel murders of 1888, Sherlock Holmes s London, the writings and trials of Oscar Wilde, theories of degeneration and medical textbooks on syphilis. -- .



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