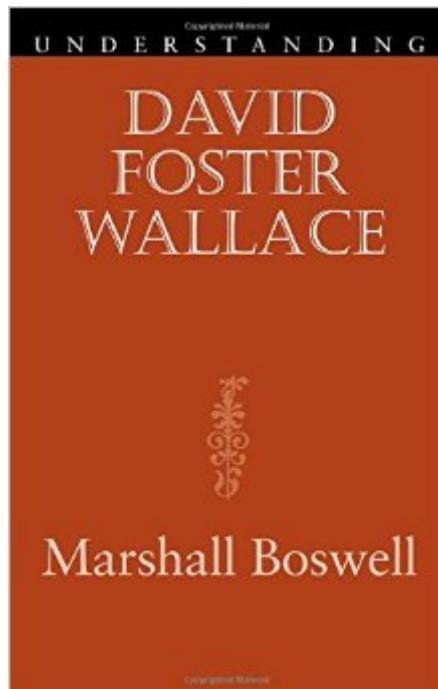


The book was found

Understanding David Foster Wallace (Understanding Contemporary American Literature)



Synopsis

Understanding David Foster Wallace guides readers through thoughtful examinations of Wallace's novels *The Broom of the System* and *Infinite Jest* and first two short story collections, *Girl with Curious Hair* and *Brief Interviews with Hideous Men*. In his readings of these works, Marshall Boswell affirms that Wallace (1962-2008), in his fiction, compels our attention for the singular excellence of his work and his groundbreaking effort to chart a fruitful and affirmative new direction for literary fiction. In addition to providing self-contained readings of each text, Boswell places Wallace within a trajectory of literary innovation that begins with James Joyce and continues through John Barth and Thomas Pynchon. Boswell contends that in charting a new course for literary practice, Wallace did not seek merely to overturn postmodernism or simply to return to modernism. Instead he moved resolutely forward with his fiction hoisting the baggage of modernism and postmodernism heavily, but respectfully, on its back.

Book Information

Paperback: 248 pages

Publisher: University of South Carolina Press (August 31, 2009)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1570038872

ISBN-13: 978-1570038877

Product Dimensions: 5 x 0.6 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 9.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (4 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #413,309 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #36 in Books > Literature & Fiction > History & Criticism > Movements & Periods > Modernism #1241 in Books > Literature & Fiction > History & Criticism > Regional & Cultural > United States #3182 in Books > Literature & Fiction > History & Criticism > Criticism & Theory

Customer Reviews

Though priced for flush university libraries rather than for skint individuals, this is an intelligent critique of DFW's work to date. Following an introduction, there are separate chapters on each of the 4 fiction books (the essays are discussed only in passing), illuminating the philosophical and aesthetic concerns of each book in a clear style with minimal academic jargon. Even longtime Wallace fans will find the book enlightening, and first-time readers couldn't hope for a better introduction to one of the most important American writers of our time. Highly recommended.

I just recently read "The Broom of the System", and found Boswell's book to be a very clear and cogent description of Wallace's style and meaning. He very understandably explicates the metafictional foundations and philosophical background of Wallace's approach to literature, and he made a lot of sense to me, grounding the work in the modernist and postmodernist literary traditions. I am about to read the chapter on "Infinite Jest", which I read a few years back, and I'm sure it will be very insightful. I learned a great deal from Boswell, not only about Wallace, but about reading, writing literature, and thinking in general. Thanks!

While reading this book, I had dreams that I was trying to teach high school kids the difference between Modernism and Post Modernism, but I kept getting interrupted by various administrators and other teachers. Then, class was over before I'd had a chance to explain anything. Hmm.

Zzzzz

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Understanding David Foster Wallace (Understanding Contemporary American Literature) The Gospel According to David Foster Wallace: Boredom and Addiction in an Age of Distraction (New Directions in Religion and Literature) Foster Parenting: The Ultimate Guide To Foster Care - How To Create A Comfortable, Loving And Stable Home For A Foster Child (Adoption, Parenting, Child Care) Elegant Complexity: A Study of David Foster Wallace's Infinite Jest Foster Parenting: A Basic Guide To Creating A Loving, Comforting And Stable Home (Foster Care, Child Care, Raising Children) Contemporary American Literature: (1945-Present) (Backgrounds to American Literature) Grain Brain Audiobook: David Perlmutter GRAIN BRAIN Audio CD: Grain Brain David Perlmutter David Va Al Colegio/David Goes to School (Spanish Edition) Smoked Out: A David Wolf Thriller (David Wolf Mystery Thriller Series Book 6) David Busch's Canon EOS 6D Guide to Digital SLR Photography (David Busch's Digital Photography Guides) To the Bone: David Wolf Mystery (David Wolf Mystery Thriller Series Book 7) Dire: A David Wolf Thriller (David Wolf Mystery Thriller Series Book 8) Collector's Guide to American Pressed Glass, 1825-1915 (Wallace-Homestead Collector's Guide Series) American Stoneware (Wallace-Homestead Price Guide) The Heath Anthology of American Literature: Volume A (Heath Anthology of American Literature Series) AIDS Literature and Gay Identity: The Literature of Loss (Routledge Studies in Twentieth-Century Literature) Guide to Law and Literature for Teachers, Students, and Researchers: Companion Text to Literature and Legal Problem Solving : Law and Literature As Ethical Discourse Born Translated: The

Contemporary Novel in an Age of World Literature (Literature Now) Contemporary Australian Literature: A World Not Yet Dead (Sydney studies in Australian literature) Victorian Furniture with Prices (Wallace-Homestead Furniture Series)

[Dmca](#)