



Adapting Detective Fiction: Crime, Englishness and the TV Detectives (Continuum Literary Studies)

Neil McCaw

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Adapting Detective Fiction is a study of specific instances of adaptation, with close readings of both the originating sources and adapted texts. But it is also more than this. It is a study of the politics of representation in the last decades of the twentieth century, and the role television detective fiction plays in this. It is about the mutually-informing interrelation of cultural texts and political rhetoric, about the connection between the popular-cultural depiction of crime and criminality and how we come to understand human behaviour and culpability; most of all, it is a detailed consideration of what the process of adaptation reveals about the shifting nature of the world in which we live. With specific reference to television series such as *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*, *Miss Marple*, *Inspector Morse*, *A Touch of Frost*, *Cadfael*, and *Midsomer Murders*, *Adapting Detective Fiction* uses adaptation as the basis for an exercise in later twentieth-century cultural history, illustrating the fundamental role detective fictions play in popular beliefs about the nature of crime and Englishness.

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