

Studies on Themes and Motifs in Literature

Reconstructing the Family in Contemporary American Fiction

Desmond F. McCarthy



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Reconstructing the Family in Contemporary American Fiction (2nd Revised edition)

By Desmond F. McCarthy

Peter Lang Publishing Inc. Paperback. Book Condition: new. BRAND NEW, *Reconstructing the Family in Contemporary American Fiction* (2nd Revised edition), Desmond F. McCarthy, The prevalence of alternative families in contemporary American fiction is significant given the concern and confusion precipitated by the decline in traditional nuclear families in recent decades. John Irving's *The World According to Garp*, Alice Walker's *The Color Purple* and E. L. Doctorow's *Ragtime* contain compelling utopian depictions of alternative families that are more egalitarian than traditional nuclear families. John Updike's *Rabbit, Run* and *Rabbit Redux* are interesting counterpoints to the optimistic novels of Irving, Walker, and Doctorow. Although Updike depicts the traditional nuclear family as the site of considerable ennui and unhappiness, attempts to flee or reconstruct the family in his novels are staggeringly destructive.



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