



# **Shadows of Doubt: Negotiations of Masculinity in American Genre Films (Contemporary Approaches to Film and Media Series)**

*Barry Keith Grant*

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In *Shadows of Doubt: Negotiations of Masculinity in American Genre Films*, Barry Keith Grant questions the idea that Hollywood movies reflect moments of crisis in the dominant image of masculinity. Arguing instead that part of the mythic function of genre movies is to offer audiences an ongoing dialogue on issues of gender, Grant explores a wide range of genre films, including comedies, musicals, horror, science fiction, westerns, teen movies, and action films.

In ten chapters arranged chronologically according to the films discussed, Grant provides a series of close analyses of such disparate films such as *Broken Blossoms*, *The Fatal Glass of Beer*, *Red River*, *2001: A Space Odyssey*, *Night of the Living Dead*, and *The Hurt Locker* to demonstrate that representations of masculinity in the movies involve a continuous process of ideological testing and negotiation. While some of the films considered offer important challenges to dominant representations of masculinity, others reveal an acceptance or capitulation to them.

Always attentive to the details of individual film texts, Grant also places the genre films he discusses within their historical contexts and the broader contexts and traditions of popular culture that inform them, including literature, theater, and music. Scholars of film and television studies as well as readers interested in gender studies will appreciate *Shadows of Doubt*.

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