

Chapter 1 : Women's Fiction Writing Romance (Continuum Literary Studies) Deborah Philips: Continuum

Women's Fiction uses many of the approaches that we have come to associate with Cultural Studies and offers an enjoyable sense of time travel for those who are old enough to remember the decades in the second half of the twentieth century ".

We are two part-time academics. It took me quite a while and I managed this one by reading in the dark-before-dawn hours while waiting for the light. However, there is room for hope this lack of understanding is not so. Women are presented a far more caricatured version of themselves; they appear to be if anything less honest with themselves than they once were, sort of cartoony. My experience of a publisher was that he intensely disliked my ideas if they hinted of feminism. So it may be that the recent novels reflect the male publisher world and a determination to make a profit from the lowest common denominator—sell a lot by selling junk. So the complete lack of understanding may be an appearance, a function of the marketplace itself. The last "typology" of "resentful daughter: They probably function to exacerbate intrasex antagonism, make the adversarial and naturally conflicting and competitive aspects of family life worse, and alienate women readers from themselves. I wonder if such books are appearing as part of the masculine backlash. Here are her typologies, what she geologizes: These are post WW2 books where male characters are traumatized over their experience in the war and also having trouble coming to terms with new demands and definitions of what is a good man. A coping male protagonist is often at the center. The single mother novel. These are books where the heroine becomes pregnant outside marriage; in just about all the heroine chooses to have the child and the novel is about the burden and complications and rewards that ensue. The group novel which shows the college friends growing up and coping over time. I just saw a film version of this in Friends With Money. Sex and Shopping Novel. The textures of these novels are a stream of cliches. The Aga-Saga and the Domestic Romance. Up market female protagonist at the center of her community, drenched in home environment, the post-marriage romance. Some rise to tragedy: Shopping for men, the single woman novel. A subtype of this is the chick-lit book. Masculinity is a spectacle and the woman is shopping for men as a commodity to be measured by how close he comes to buying and wearing the "right" things. Consumption the great measurements; Bourdieu often quoted in this chapter. These are "jaunty" books. Some of this is archetypal hostility, some an inability to tell an appearance in social communities from realities at home and in the mind and real daily life. Daughters see their mothers as childlike and not grown up. A life-poisoning kind of relationship is described, with the daughter having no forgiveness for the mother who is ambitious. A Booker Prize short-listed one belongs here too: These are an important subgroup of related books many women buy, read and apparently enjoy. A certain type of socially admired and accepted book is chosen for book reading groups e. There is a good deal about the real literary marketplace. A suit against monopoly practices and globalization changed that in the s and she talks of the rapid interaction between US and UK and Canadian and other English rooted novels. Philips is so refreshingly candid. She has an excellent bibliography too. Yes, Harriet, a book is a private conversation between the woman and the heroine who is written up in direct plain language so it feels like a letter to you. If only listservs were places for really sharing deep experiences of books together, imagine what a listserv for reading Virago books by women could be. I never really got into the "chick lit" thing, though Bridget Jones is very funny. Does she mention them? I found for me the preference was the "Aga-sage" and "college-, or group-novel. I have read a number of the authors though: Storm Jameson wrote an autobiography I loved: Journey from the North. I find by putting things on the Net I spare myself losing them. There is such hypocrisy, silence, and so many wastelands. Young as a literary person and her books to Woolf for style and to Austen as another writer who stands for a certain kind of woman reader: I see Austen as a referent for several centuries of obscured women novelists. I loved this comment. Instead of isolated as she usually is by commentary. And I do think the influence is in the style, the sentence. So Bekah on Booker Prize Yahoo responded: It even makes me kind of want to read the book but you pretty well summarized the major points, I think. Young to Austen and to Woolf. It is so good to see E. Young being discussed, as I said before! If enough list members bought it perhaps it would encourage Virago

to publish their backlistâ€¦ The Deborah Phillips book does sound very interesting indeed, have just looked it up on amazon. Susan Sontag is deadâ€¦but, did any of you happen to read a recent excerpt from her journals in the NYTimes? Such a brilliant mind, and as vulnerable and insecure as the rest of us. I can only say, good for them, two incredibly talented women â€¦ but not completely free to be open about their relationship. She really captures the male voice. I kept having to remind myself that the book was written by a woman. I have her Housekeeping out on a pile. Would love a new Kingsolver. But I imagine that it was dated within 2 years because of imitations and the new wave of feminism breaking loose. Feminism is having to regroup around gains made and inequities still suffered. So are many of these literary critical books published by commercial publishers and written in genuine readable English. I got it through Interlibrary loan and wrote the blog partly as notes to myself to remember its content. She wanted to deny that Young is seen the way Austen supposedly was. My books are old with have lovely early 20th century illustrations, mostly by women artists. I like Anne Tyler very much. I have two articles somewhere comparing her to Austen especially Persuasion. I was much moved by The Amateur Marriage, cried a little at the end: Philips did not mention my favorite novelists, e. As I wrote on the blog I thought the earlier types were better books, and these later ones dumbed down and actually anti-feminist. I wrote about that on my blog. Philips avoided the sheerly literary sort of book Elizabeth Taylor and Elizabeth Spencer write. Now I love them. I think you would be a very welcome injection of new blood. Is it an invitation-only list? Kathy commenting closed for this article.

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Women's Fiction uses many of the approaches that we have come to associate with Cultural Studies and offers an enjoyable sense of time travel for those who are old enough to remember the decades in the second half of the twentieth century, although many readers will be too young to do this.

Chapter 8 : Women's Fiction: From to Today: Deborah Philips: Bloomsbury Academic

Organised around each decade of the post war period, this book analyses novels written by and for women from to the present. Each chapter identifies a specific genre in popular fiction for women which marked that period and provides case studies focusing on writers and texts which enjoyed a wide readership.

Chapter 9 : Ellen And Jim Have A Blog, Too: An archeology of women's experience: 20th century, 2nd ha

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