

devil in the white city themes

Devil in the White City Themes: Exploring Morality, Ambition, and Duality in Erik Larson's Masterpiece

devil in the white city themes weave together a fascinating tapestry of contrasting ideas and complex human emotions, making Erik Larson's historical narrative not just a story of the 1893 Chicago World's Fair but also a deep dive into the darker corners of human nature. This book artfully balances the excitement and ingenuity of the "White City" with the chilling deeds of its shadowy counterpart, the "devil." Understanding these themes not only enriches the reading experience but also offers insight into broader societal issues that resonate even today.

The Intersection of Good and Evil

One of the most prominent devil in the white city themes is the stark juxtaposition between good and evil. Larson masterfully contrasts the visionary architect Daniel H. Burnham, whose passion and perseverance brought the grand Chicago World's Fair to life, with the sinister serial killer H.H. Holmes, who exploited the fair's chaos to carry out his crimes.

Light and Darkness in the White City

The "White City" itself symbolizes hope, progress, and human achievement. Burnham's architectural marvels illuminate the city, reflecting the era's optimism and faith in progress. Conversely, Holmes' "Murder Castle" lurks in the shadows, representing the hidden evils that can thrive amid societal advancements. This duality prompts readers to consider how great achievements often coexist with underlying darkness.

Morality and Human Nature

Larson's exploration of morality is nuanced. The devil in the white city themes suggest that evil is not always obvious; it can be subtle, masked by charm or hidden within bureaucratic systems. Holmes' ability to deceive and manipulate contrasts with Burnham's transparent dedication, highlighting the complexity of human nature and the fragile line between good and evil.

Ambition and the American Dream

Another key theme is ambition—both constructive and destructive. The 1893 World's Fair was a monumental project symbolizing the American Dream, showcasing innovation, culture, and the country's rising status on the world stage.

Burnham's Vision and Determination

Daniel Burnham's relentless drive to complete the fair on time despite numerous obstacles exemplifies the positive side of ambition. His leadership embodies the era's spirit of possibility, inspiring readers to appreciate the perseverance and collaboration required to realize monumental dreams.

Holmes' Dark Ambition

In sharp contrast, Holmes' ambition is rooted in greed and malice. His manipulative schemes and murder spree reveal how unchecked ambition can become destructive. The devil in the white city themes highlight that ambition, when divorced from ethics, can lead to catastrophic consequences.

The Role of Innovation and Progress

Innovation is a recurring motif, reflecting the transformative period of the late 19th century. The World's Fair was a showcase for technological advancements, from electric lighting to new transportation systems.

The Fair as a Symbol of Progress

The fair's dazzling displays and architectural feats symbolize humanity's capacity for creativity and improvement. This theme emphasizes how innovation can uplift societies and shape history.

Progress and its Shadows

However, devil in the white city themes remind us that progress has a darker side. While the fair represented optimism, the rapid urbanization and anonymity it created also provided fertile ground for crimes like those committed by Holmes. This duality encourages readers to reflect on how societal advancements can inadvertently enable evil.

Duality and Contrasts in Setting and Character

The contrast between characters and settings is central to the narrative's tension and depth.

Chicago: A City of Contrasts

Chicago itself is portrayed as a city of extremes—bustling yet chaotic, beautiful yet dangerous. The fairgrounds were a meticulously crafted utopia, while the surrounding city was rife with poverty, crime, and corruption. This setting mirrors the duality found in the novel's characters and themes.

Character Duality: Burnham vs. Holmes

The stark differences between Burnham and Holmes personify the conflict between creation and destruction. Burnham's public, noble persona contrasts with Holmes' secretive, malevolent nature. This character duality reinforces the devil in the white city themes and invites contemplation about the masks people wear in society.

Psychology of Evil and Human Fascination with Crime

Larson's work goes beyond history and architecture to probe psychological questions about evil and why society is fascinated by criminals like Holmes.

Understanding the Mind of a Killer

Holmes is depicted not just as a monster but as a complex individual, capable of charm and cunning. The devil in the white city themes delve into the psychology behind his actions, exploring how charisma and manipulation can enable evil to flourish.

Society's Morbid Curiosity

The book also comments on society's obsession with sensational crimes and serial killers. The contrast between the public celebration of the fair and the secret horrors of Holmes' crimes reflects this cultural paradox.

Lessons from History: Relevance Today

While rooted in a specific historical moment, the themes in devil in the white city resonate in contemporary discussions about urbanization, ethics, and human nature.

Balancing Progress with Vigilance

The story serves as a reminder that progress must be accompanied by vigilance and ethical awareness. As cities grow and technology advances, the potential for exploitation and harm remains real.

The Importance of Moral Leadership

Burnham's example showcases the power of visionary and ethical leadership in overcoming challenges. In contrast, Holmes reminds us of the dangers posed by individuals who use ambition and intelligence for harm.

Exploring devil in the white city themes reveals a rich, layered narrative that transcends its historical setting. Through contrasts of light and darkness, ambition and morality, innovation and danger, the story invites readers to reflect on the complexities of human nature and society. Whether you're drawn to true crime, history, or psychological insight, these themes offer compelling perspectives that continue to captivate and provoke thought long after the final page.

Frequently Asked Questions

What are the main themes explored in 'The Devil in the White City'?

The main themes include the contrast between good and evil, the duality of human nature, ambition and innovation, and the dark side of the American Dream.

How does 'The Devil in the White City' portray the theme of good versus evil?

The book contrasts the visionary architect Daniel H. Burnham, who builds the 1893 Chicago World's Fair, with the serial killer H.H. Holmes, highlighting the coexistence of creativity and darkness in the same city and time.

In what way does ambition play a role in the themes of 'The Devil in the White City'?

Ambition drives both Burnham and Holmes, but while Burnham's ambition leads to monumental achievements and progress, Holmes' ambition manifests in manipulation and murder, showcasing different facets of human drive.

How is the theme of innovation depicted in 'The Devil in

the White City'?

Innovation is central to the story, illustrating the groundbreaking architectural and engineering feats achieved during the World's Fair, symbolizing progress and human ingenuity in the face of adversity.

What does 'The Devil in the White City' suggest about the duality of human nature?

The book presents the duality through its two main characters, Burnham and Holmes, demonstrating how the same environment can foster both extraordinary creativity and profound evil.

How does the theme of the American Dream manifest in 'The Devil in the White City'?

The World's Fair represents the pinnacle of the American Dream—progress, opportunity, and success—while Holmes' dark deeds reveal the potential corruption and moral decay that can accompany such aspirations.

In what ways does 'The Devil in the White City' explore the theme of urban development and its impact?

The narrative showcases Chicago's transformation through the fair, highlighting the role of urban planning and architecture in shaping society, while also exposing the social challenges and dangers lurking beneath the surface.

Does 'The Devil in the White City' address the theme of illusion versus reality?

Yes, the book contrasts the dazzling facade of the World's Fair, symbolizing hope and progress, with the grim reality of Holmes' crimes, emphasizing how appearances can be deceiving.

Additional Resources

****Exploring the Depths of Devil in the White City Themes: A Literary and Historical Analysis****

devil in the white city themes serve as a compelling framework through which Erik Larson's acclaimed narrative unravels the intertwined stories of ambition, innovation, and darkness set against the backdrop of the 1893 Chicago World's Fair. This masterful work, blending historical fact with narrative nonfiction, delves into contrasting human experiences, revealing profound insights into the extremes of human nature and society's dual capacity for creation and destruction. Understanding these themes not only enriches readers' appreciation of Larson's work but also illuminates broader cultural and psychological dimensions relevant to both the past and present.

In-Depth Analysis of Devil in the White City Themes

At its core, **Devil in the White City** presents a rich tapestry of themes that juxtapose the grandeur of human ingenuity with the sinister aspects lurking beneath societal progress. Set during the monumental effort to construct the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago, the narrative contrasts the visionary architect Daniel H. Burnham's quest to build the "White City" with the chilling actions of serial killer H.H. Holmes. This dual narrative structure facilitates a nuanced exploration of themes such as ambition, morality, duality, and the American Dream.

The Theme of Ambition and Innovation

One of the most prominent themes in **Devil in the White City** is the relentless ambition driving the architects, engineers, and organizers behind the fair. The construction of the White City was not merely a feat of engineering but a symbol of American progress and possibility. Burnham's leadership exemplifies visionary ambition, pushing technological boundaries and overcoming myriad logistical challenges to create an urban masterpiece that dazzled the world.

This theme resonates with readers interested in the history of architectural innovation and urban planning. It highlights the pros of human ingenuity—how vision combined with determination can transform ideas into reality. However, it also implicitly questions the costs of such ambition, including the immense pressure on workers and the ethical ambiguities in the pursuit of progress.

Good Versus Evil: A Stark Duality

The juxtaposition of Burnham's creative endeavors with Holmes's dark deeds introduces a profound theme of duality—good versus evil, light versus darkness. Holmes, often described as the "devil" in the narrative, embodies the sinister underbelly of the rapidly modernizing city. His crimes, committed under the guise of a respectable businessman, evoke a sense of horror that contrasts sharply with the idealism and beauty of the White City.

This theme invites readers to consider the coexistence of brilliance and depravity within the same historical moment and geographical space. It reflects on the complexity of human nature, where the capacity for extraordinary achievements exists alongside the potential for monstrous acts. The interplay between these forces makes the narrative more than a historical recount; it becomes a meditation on morality and the human condition.

The Illusion of the American Dream

Devil in the White City also explores the theme of the American Dream, both in its

aspirational and illusory forms. The World's Fair represented hope, progress, and the promise of a better future. Yet, Holmes's story reveals the dark side of this dream—where the pursuit of wealth and success can lead to manipulation, deception, and moral decay.

This theme is crucial for understanding the socio-cultural context of late 19th-century America, a period marked by rapid industrialization and urbanization but also by inequality and social tension. Larson's narrative encourages readers to critically assess how the American Dream can inspire greatness but also mask underlying societal flaws.

The Role of Urbanization and Modernity

Urbanization and the challenges of modernity form another vital theme in **Devil in the White City**. The rapid development of Chicago as an urban hub, epitomized by the fair, reflects the broader transformation of American cities during the Gilded Age. This theme encompasses both the marvels of technological progress—electric lighting, innovative architecture, and transportation—and the social upheavals such as overcrowding, crime, and corruption.

The dual narrative effectively captures how modern cities became spaces of both hope and danger. Readers gain insight into how the fair was designed to showcase the potential of modern urban planning, yet the city itself remained vulnerable to the shadows represented by Holmes's crimes.

Subtopics Related to Devil in the White City Themes

Historical Context and Its Impact on Thematic Development

Understanding the historical context of the 1893 Chicago World's Fair is essential to fully grasping the themes of **Devil in the White City**. The fair was a milestone event showcasing America's emergence as an industrial power. The themes of ambition and innovation are anchored in this context, reflecting a nation eager to assert itself on the world stage.

Additionally, the social and economic disparities of the era provide fertile ground for exploring themes of duality and morality. Holmes's ability to exploit societal weaknesses highlights the darker realities beneath the era's optimistic surface.

Symbolism of the White City

The "White City" itself is a powerful symbol within the narrative and its themes. It

represents purity, order, and the idealized vision of civilization. The city's gleaming white buildings and meticulously planned spaces convey hopes for a utopian future driven by human creativity and control over nature.

However, this symbolism is complicated by the presence of the "devil" figure in the narrative. The contrast between the White City's symbolic purity and Holmes's malevolence underscores the central theme of appearance versus reality—a reminder that beneath even the brightest facades may lie darkness.

Psychological Themes: Charisma and Manipulation

Larson's portrayal of H.H. Holmes delves into psychological themes, particularly the use of charisma and manipulation. Holmes's charm allowed him to deceive numerous victims, reflecting themes of trust and betrayal. This psychological dimension adds depth to the narrative, illustrating how personal darkness can exploit societal vulnerabilities.

The exploration of Holmes's psychology complements the broader thematic contrast between light and dark, good and evil, and raises questions about human nature's complexities.

Why Devil in the White City Themes Resonate Today

The enduring appeal of **Devil in the White City** themes lies in their universality and relevance. Ambition, innovation, and the tension between good and evil are timeless human concerns. In today's world, where technological advances continue to reshape society and ethical dilemmas abound, Larson's thematic exploration offers both historical insight and contemporary resonance.

Moreover, the narrative's focus on urbanization and modernity parallels ongoing discussions about city planning, social justice, and public safety. The story of the 1893 fair and Holmes's crimes serves as a reminder of the stakes involved when progress is pursued without vigilance toward moral consequences.

In terms of literary value, the themes explored in **Devil in the White City** contribute to its classification as a seminal work of narrative nonfiction. The book's ability to weave complex themes into a gripping historical account exemplifies the power of storytelling to illuminate multifaceted human experiences.

The juxtaposition of the spectacular and the sinister, the hopeful and the horrific, makes **Devil in the White City** a profound study of contrasts. As readers navigate the narrative, the themes compel reflection on how societies balance progress with ethics, and how individual actions can reflect or distort collective ideals.

Through its exploration of ambition, duality, the American Dream, and modernity, **Devil in the White City** remains a vital work that challenges and engages readers, encouraging

them to look beyond surface appearances to the deeper forces shaping history and humanity.

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devil in the white city themes: *North Country* Jon K. Lauck, Gleaves Whitney, 2023-05-04 Travel north from the upper Midwest's metropolises, and before long you're "Up North"—a region that's hard to define but unmistakable to any resident or tourist. Crops give way to forests, mines (or their remains) mark the landscape, and lakes multiply, becoming ever clearer until you reach the vastness of the Great Lakes. How to characterize this region, as distinct from the agrarian Midwest, is the question North Country seeks to answer, as a congenial group of scholars, journalists, and public intellectuals explores the distinctive landscape, culture, and history that define the northern margins of the American Midwest. From the glacial past to the present day, these essays range across the histories of the Dakota and Ojibwe people, colonial imperial rivalries and immigration, and conflicts between the economic imperatives of resource extraction and the stewardship of nature. The book also considers literary treatments of the area—and arguably makes its own contributions to that literature, as some of the authors search for the North Country through personal essays, while others highlight individuals who are identified with the area, like Sigurd Olson, John Barlow Martin, and Russell Kirk. From the fur trade to tourism, fisheries to supper clubs, Finnish settlers to Native treaty rights, the nature of the North Country emerges here in all its variety and particularity: as clearly distinct from the greater Midwest as it is part of the American heartland.

devil in the white city themes: *The Tour Guide* Jonathan R. Wynn, 2011-07-05 Everyone wants to visit New York at least once. The Big Apple is a global tourist destination with a dizzying array of attractions throughout the five boroughs. The only problem is figuring out where to start—and that's where the city's tour guides come in. These guides are a vital part of New York's raucous sidewalk culture, and, as *The Tour Guide* reveals, the tours they offer are as fascinatingly diverse—and eccentric—as the city itself. Visitors can take tours that cover Manhattan before the arrival of European settlers, the nineteenth-century Irish gangs of Five Points, the culinary traditions of Queens, the culture of Harlem, or even the surveillance cameras of Chelsea—in short, there are tours to satisfy anyone's curiosity about the city's past or present. And the guides are as intriguing as the subjects, we learn, as Jonathan R. Wynn explores the lives of the people behind the tours, introducing us to office workers looking for a diversion from their desk jobs, unemployed actors honing their vocal skills, and struggling retirees searching for a second calling. Matching years of research with his own experiences as a guide, Wynn also lays bare the grueling process of acquiring an official license and offers a how-to guide to designing and leading a tour. Touching on the long history of tour-giving across the globe as well as the ups and downs of New York's tour guide industry in the wake of 9/11, *The Tour Guide* is as informative and insightful as the chatty, charming, and colorful characters at its heart.

devil in the white city themes: *The Princeton Guide to Historical Research* Zachary Schrag, 2021-04-27 The essential handbook for doing historical research in the twenty-first century *The Princeton Guide to Historical Research* provides students, scholars, and professionals with the

skills they need to practice the historian's craft in the digital age, while never losing sight of the fundamental values and techniques that have defined historical scholarship for centuries. Zachary Schrag begins by explaining how to ask good questions and then guides readers step-by-step through all phases of historical research, from narrowing a topic and locating sources to taking notes, crafting a narrative, and connecting one's work to existing scholarship. He shows how researchers extract knowledge from the widest range of sources, such as government documents, newspapers, unpublished manuscripts, images, interviews, and datasets. He demonstrates how to use archives and libraries, read sources critically, present claims supported by evidence, tell compelling stories, and much more. Featuring a wealth of examples that illustrate the methods used by seasoned experts, *The Princeton Guide to Historical Research* reveals that, however varied the subject matter and sources, historians share basic tools in the quest to understand people and the choices they made. Offers practical step-by-step guidance on how to do historical research, taking readers from initial questions to final publication Connects new digital technologies to the traditional skills of the historian Draws on hundreds of examples from a broad range of historical topics and approaches Shares tips for researchers at every skill level

devil in the white city themes: The Devil in the White City by Erik Larson Erik Larson, 2020 *The Devil in the White City* features explanations of key themes, motifs, and symbols including: motivation; pride; fire; the color blue; sickness; dark and light. It also includes detailed analysis of these important characters: Daniel H. Burnham; H.H. Holmes; Frederick Law Olmsted. --

devil in the white city themes: Killer Fandom: Fan Studies and the Celebrity Serial Killer Judith May Fathallah, 2023-11-05 *Killer Fandom* is the first long-form treatment of serial killer fandom. Fan studies have mostly ignored this most moralized form of fandom, as a stigmatized Bad Other in implicit tension with the field's successful campaign to recuperate the broader fan category. Yet serial killer fandom, as Judith May Fathallah shows in the book, can be usefully studied with many of the field's leading analytic frameworks. After tracing the pre-digital history of fans, mediated celebrity, and killers, Fathallah examines contemporary fandom through the lens of textual poaching, affective community, subcultural capital, and play. With close readings of fan posts, comments, and mashups on Tumblr, TikTok, and YouTube, alongside documentaries, podcasts, and a thriving "murderabilia" industry, *Killer Fandom* argues that this fan culture is, in many ways, hard to distinguish from more "mainstream" fandoms. Fan creations around Aileen Wuornos, Jeffrey Dahmer, Ted Bundy, and Richard Ramirez, among others, demonstrate a complex and shifting stance toward their objects—marked by parodic humor and irony in many cases. *Killer Fandom* ultimately questions—given our crime-and violence-saturated media culture—whether it makes sense to set Dahmer and Wuornos "fans" apart from the rest of us.

devil in the white city themes: Bad to the Bones: A Unique History of Texan Outlaws Pasquale De Marco, Journey into the wild and lawless world of Texan outlaws in this captivating book that brings to life the stories of the men and women who defied the law and left an indelible mark on history. From the legendary figures of Billy the Kid and Jesse James to the lesser-known characters who roamed the vast and unforgiving landscape of Texas, this book offers a comprehensive exploration of the outlaw phenomenon in the Lone Star State. Step back in time to the days of the Wild West, when Texas was a frontier land where justice was often hard to come by and outlaws thrived. Meet the notorious outlaws who captured the public's imagination with their daring exploits and audacious robberies. Learn about their motivations, their methods, and their ultimate fate. Discover the social and historical factors that contributed to the rise of outlawry in Texas, and explore the complex relationship between outlaws and the lawmen who pursued them. But this book goes beyond the famous outlaws. It also sheds light on the lesser-known figures, the men and women who lived on the fringes of society and whose stories have been largely forgotten. Meet the female outlaws who defied gender roles and carved out a place for themselves in a man's world. Visit the outlaw hideouts and hangouts, and learn about the code of honor that governed the outlaw world. Through these stories, you will gain a deeper understanding of the Wild West and the unique history of Texas. You will see how outlaws shaped the state's culture and identity, and how their legacy

continues to influence us today. Whether you are a history buff, a fan of Westerns, or simply someone who enjoys a good story, ****Bad to the Bones**** has something for you. Saddle up and join us on a journey through the outlaw history of Texas! If you like this book, write a review!

devil in the white city themes: Mastering Nonfiction Writing with ChatGPT Maximus Wilson, 2023-03-19 Writers are increasingly using ChatGPT, an advanced natural language processing model developed by OpenAI, to help with various aspects of their writing process. ChatGPT uses machine learning to generate human-like responses to text prompts, making it a valuable tool for generating ideas, overcoming writer's block, and even providing inspiration for full-length works. In this chapter, we will explore some of the ways in which writers are using ChatGPT and the benefits and limitations of this technology. One of the most popular uses of ChatGPT for writers is to generate ideas. By providing a text prompt, such as a sentence or a few words, ChatGPT can generate a list of potential ideas or prompts for further exploration. This can be especially useful for writers who are stuck or experiencing writer's block and need a new angle or direction to pursue. ChatGPT can also be used to develop characters by generating personality traits, backgrounds, and motivations. By providing a basic description of a character, ChatGPT can generate a list of potential traits and characteristics that can be further developed and explored. This can be especially useful for writers who are struggling to develop complex, multi-dimensional characters. Another way that writers are using ChatGPT is to explore different plot points or scenarios.

devil in the white city themes: Pynchon and History Shawn Smith, 2013-11-05 First Published in 2005. While many previous books on Pynchon allude to his fictional engagement with historical events and figures, this book explores Pynchon as a historical novelist and, by extension, historical thinker. The book interprets Pynchon's four major novels *V.*, *Gravity's Rainbow*, *Vineland*, and *Mason & Dixon* through the prism of historical interpretation and representation. In doing so, it argues that Pynchon's innovative narrative techniques express his philosophy of history and historical representation through the form of his texts.

devil in the white city themes: The Last Voyage of the Whaling Bark Progress Daniel Gifford, 2021-01-11 The whaling bark Progress was a New Bedford ship transformed into a whaling museum for Chicago's 1893 world's fair. Traversing waterways across North America, the whaleship enthralled crowds from Montreal to Racine. Her ultimate fate, however, was to be a failed sideshow of marine curiosities and a metaphor for a dying industry out of step with Gilded Age America. This book uses the story of the Progress to detail the rise, fall, and eventual demise of the whaling industry in America. The legacy of this whaling bark can be found throughout New England and Chicago, and invites questions about what it means to transform a dying industry into a museum piece.

devil in the white city themes: When Mongrel Dogs Teach William J Burghardt, 2021-03-25 What happens when a 45-year-old Baby Boomer goes back to teach high school and finds the students are more in touch with reality than his colleagues and supervisors? "So don't blow off these tests. Keep our school number high. These test scores are not about you, the students. They are about property value. Money. Status. Making the rich richer and the poor poorer. The American Dream is about moving from districts with shitty test scores to those with really good ones." "Teaching isn't easy—it's grueling. You have to have the gift or you won't make it.... teachers should be paid like doctors and lawyers; their contributions affect the lives of millions of young people what they give back to the human race is far, far greater." "The evaluation of teachers is a very hot issue at this writing, and as Storm once told the entire faculty, the people doing the evaluating take these extra courses, but it doesn't really qualify them to evaluate anybody."

devil in the white city themes: Incident at Devil's Finger Larry Witham, 2023-11-02 On a beautiful June day, the famous performance artist Magnifica is set to jump from a helicopter and parachute down through the Red Rock Pinnacle monuments of Sedona, Arizona. What the large and excited crowd sees instead is the massive explosion and collapse of Devil's Finger, a thousand-foot Red Rock pinnacle. Art sleuth Julian Peale is on the case, looking where the authorities are not—into

the mysterious artworld ties to Magnifica. There's a New York art patron, the Wall Street gambler, a cyberpunk hack, a Russian art dealer with mob ties, two rival tech millionaires, and a wealthy hippy still living in the Age of Aquarius. The artist Magnifica—Mary Saville by birth—has retreated into the shadows with her copter pilot with plans to bolster her fame. She may be heir to a fortune gathered up by her ailing mother, the once-famous artist Sophia Saville. In search for answers, Peale moves through the LA art scene, the tech world of San Francisco, the gamers conventions in Las Vegas, the underworld of art betting and Russian organized crime, and finally to the famed counter-cultural festival in the desert of Nevada, the Oracle of Fire—where Magnifica has audacious plans to crash the party. As the dust settles in a Chicago courtroom, all the motives in this art world menagerie are revealed—especially, who blew up Devil's Finger?

devil in the white city themes: The Rough Guide to Chicago Rough Guides, Rich McHugh, 2009-07 "Rough Guides are consistently readable, informed and, most crucially, reliable" - Bill Bryson

devil in the white city themes: *Space and Subjectivity in Contemporary Brazilian Cinema* Antônio Márcio da Silva, Mariana Cunha, 2017-08-12 This collection explores the emergence of new spatialities and subjectivities in Brazilian films produced from the 1990s onwards, a period that became known as the *retomada*, but especially in the cinema of the new millennium. The chapters take spatiality as a powerful tool that can reveal aesthetic, political, social, and historical meanings of the cinematographic image instead of considering space as just a formal element of a film. From the rich cross-fertilization of different theories and disciplines, this edited collection engages with the connection between space and subjectivity in Brazilian cinema while raising new questions concerning spatiality and subjectivity in cinema and providing new models and tools for film analysis.

devil in the white city themes: *The Nineteenth Century Revis(it)ed* Ina Bergmann, 2020-12-29 *The Nineteenth Century Revis(it)ed: The New Historical Fiction* explores the renaissance of the American historical novel at the turn of the twenty-first century. The study examines the revision of nineteenth-century historical events in cultural products against the background of recent theoretical trends in American studies. It combines insights of literary studies with scholarship on popular culture. The focus of representation is the long nineteenth century - a period from the early republic to World War I - as a key epoch of the nation-building project of the United States. The study explores the constructedness of historical tradition and the cultural resonance of historical events within the discourse on the contemporary novel and the theory formation surrounding it. At the center of the discussion are the unprecedented literary output and critical as well as popular success of historical fiction in the USA since 1995. An additional postcolonial and transatlantic perspective is provided by the incorporation of texts by British and Australian authors and especially by the inclusion of insights from neo-Victorian studies. The book provides a critical comment on current and topical developments in American literature, culture, and historiography.

devil in the white city themes: *Chicago* Frederik Byrn Køhlert, 2021-09-23 Chicago occupies a central position in both the geography and literary history of the United States. From its founding in 1833 through to its modern incarnation, the city has served as both a thoroughfare for the nation's goods and a crossroads for its cultural energies. The idea of Chicago as a crossroads of modern America is what guides this literary history, which traces how writers have responded to a rapidly changing urban environment and labored to make sense of its place in - and implications for - the larger whole. In writing that engages with the world's first skyscrapers and elevated railroads, extreme economic and racial inequality, a growing middle class, ethnic and multiethnic neighborhoods, the Great Migration of African Americans, and the city's contemporary incarnation as a cosmopolitan urban center, Chicago has been home to a diverse literature that has both captured and guided the themes of modern America.

devil in the white city themes: Books Out Loud , 2007

devil in the white city themes: *Steps of Perfection* Donald S. Sutton, 2020-03-23 Despite Taiwan's rise as an economic force in the world, modernity has not led to a Weberian process of

disenchantment or curbed religiosity. To the contrary, other factors—social, economic, political—have stimulated religion. How and why this has happened are central issues in this book. One part of Taiwan’s flourishing religious culture is the elaborate and colorful procession of local gods accompanied by troupes of musicians and dancers. Among them are performers with outlandishly painted faces portraying underworld generals who serve the gods and punish the living. Through their performances, these troupes claim to exorcise harmful forces from the community. In conducting fieldwork among these troupes, Donald Sutton confronted their claims to a long history—when all evidence indicated that the troupes had been insignificant until the 1970s—and their assertions of devotion to tradition given the diversity of performances. Concentrating on the stylistic variations in performances, the author describes the troupes as organizations shaped by the “market forces” of supply and demand in the culture of religious festivals. By focusing on performances as the nexus of market and art, he shows how bodily performance is the site where religious statements are made and the power of the gods made visible.

devil in the white city themes: *The Propaganda of Power* Mary Whitby, 2018-07-17 The 13 essays presented here shed new light on the role of panegyric in the western and eastern Roman Empire in the late antique world. Introductory chapters give an overview of panegyric theory and practice, followed by studies of major writers of the early empire and the anonymous *Panegyrici latini*. The core of the volume deals with prose and verse panegyric under the Christian Roman Empire (4th-7th century): key themes addressed are social and political context, the 'hidden agenda', and the impact of Christianity on the pagan tradition of the panegyric, including the portrayal of patriarchs and holy men.

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