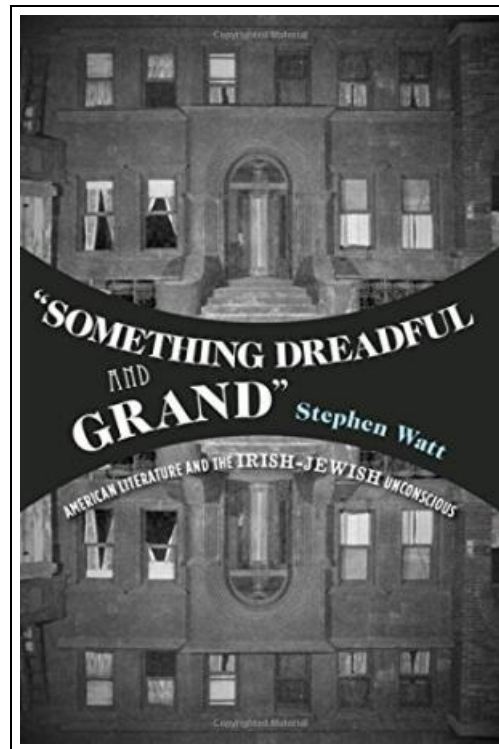


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SOMETHING DREADFUL AND GRAND : AMERICAN LITERATURE AND THE IRISH-JEWISH UNCONSCIOUS (HARDBACK)



Oxford University Press Inc, United States, 2015. Hardback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book. Something Dreadful and Grand : American Literature and the Irish-Jewish Unconscious takes its title from an essay that introduces John Patrick Shanley's *Outside Mullingar*, a text that marks over 150 years of the so-called Irish play on the New York stage. This book traces the often uncanny relationships between Irish- and Jewish-America, arguing for the centrality of these two diasporic groups to the development of American popular music, fiction, and especially drama. But more than this, the book reads such cultural forms as tenement fiction, Tin Pan Alley music, and melodrama as part of a larger circum-North Atlantic world in which texts and performers from Ireland, Europe, and America were and still are involved in a continuous cultural exchange within which stereotypes and performances of Jewishness and Irishness took center stage. For this reason, such Irish writers as James Joyce, Bernard Shaw, and Sean O'Casey played pivotal roles in the development of modern American culture, particularly as they influenced and interacted with writers like Elmer Rice, Clifford Odets, Henry Roth, and many others. Such Irish-American writers as Eugene O'Neill were similarly influenced by their interactions with Jewish-American writers like Michael Gold and Edward Dahlberg. While focusing on the modern period, this project traces a genealogy of modern drama and fiction to the nineteenth century stage in which Irish and Jewish melodrama-and the appearances of international stars in such roles as Shylock and Leah, the Forsaken-shaped the often contradictory and excessive dimensions of ethnicity that are both allo-semitic and allo-ibernian. Borrowing a term from psychoanalytic theory, I also explore the larger dimensions of an Irish-Jewish unconscious underlying cultural production in America. The closing chapter considers more recent representations of Irish-Jewish interactions by...



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