

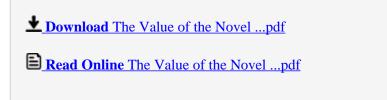
The Value of the Novel

By Peter Boxall



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Peter Boxall's The Value of the Novel offers a reappraisal of the ethical, political and literary value of the novel as a genre at turning point in the history both of literature and of criticism. As the dominant critical concerns of the twentieth century faded, and new cultural and technological environments emerged, Boxall argues that we lost our collective sense of the purpose of the novel. This book responds to this predicament by demonstrating why and how the novel matters to us today. Ranging from Daniel Defoe to Zadie Smith, Boxall shows how the formal properties of the novel allow us to imagine the worlds in which we live. This is a vibrant, compelling and richly informed critical perspective that asks us to see anew how central fiction is to our idea of the world, and how richly the novel informs our attempts to understand our present and our future.



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Review

"The Value of the Novel is a triumph. Peter Boxall offers us a sweeping, stimulating revision of critical and literary history that looks forward to the novel's future even as it looks no less to its past. And his book is as moving as it is persuasive, because of the quality of its analysis and of Boxall's writing. This volume, the first of a new series, sets the highest standard for subsequent installments. Boxall re-establishes criticism as a comprehensive exploratory dialogue about every aspect of the art and rhetoric of fiction. His work reminds us of the value of the intellectual distinction that is, as much as the value of the novel, our common pursuit." Robert Caserio, Pennsylvania State University

About the Author

Peter Boxall is Professor of English at the University of Sussex. His books include Don DeLillo: The Possibility of Fiction, Since Beckett: Contemporary Writing in the Wake of Modernism and Twenty-First Century-Fiction: A Critical Introduction (Cambridge, 2013). He has also edited and co-edited a number of collections, including Thinking Poetry.

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