Unnatural Voices: Extreme Narration in Modern and Contemporary Fiction

Brian Richardson

Unnatural voices: extreme narration in modern and contemporary fiction. Unnatural Voices: Extreme Narration in Modern and Contemporary Fiction. By Brian Richardson. Columbus: The Ohio State UP, 2006. xiii + 166 pp. The late Brian Richardson, an innovative and influential scholar of narrative, left us with a groundbreaking work that has become a cornerstone in the field of narratology. Unnatural Voices: Extreme Narration in Modern and Contemporary Fiction is a seminal contribution that redefines our understanding of narrative forms and their impact on contemporary literature. The book explores the concept of the 'unnatural voice,' which Richardson argues is a new form of narrative that challenges traditional notions of authorship, character, and voice.

Richardson's work is not just an academic treatise but a call to action for writers and readers alike. He invites us to think critically about the ways in which narratives are constructed and how these constructions shape our perceptions of the world. The book is divided into two main sections: 'Narratology' and 'Beyond Poststructuralism: Theory of Character, the Personae of Modern Drama, and Unnatural Voices: Extreme Narration in Contemporary Fiction.'

The first section, 'Narratology,' provides a historical overview of narrative theory, highlighting key figures and developments in the field. It sets the stage for Richardson's exploration of the 'unnatural voice' as a new form of narrative discourse. The second section, 'Beyond Poststructuralism: Theory of Character, the Personae of Modern Drama, and Unnatural Voices: Extreme Narration in Contemporary Fiction,' delves deeper into the theoretical underpinnings of the new narrative forms that Richardson identifies.

Richardson argues that the 'unnatural voice' is a form of narrative that transcends traditional boundaries, challenging our expectations of what a narrative should be. He asserts that this new form of narrative is not only found in postmodern literature but is also a feature of contemporary fiction. The book is a rich resource for students, scholars, and anyone interested in the evolution of narrative discourse.

In conclusion, Brian Richardson's Unnatural Voices: Extreme Narration in Modern and Contemporary Fiction is a must-read for anyone interested in the future of narrative. It is a book that pushes the boundaries of what we understand to be narrative and invites us to think beyond traditional forms. This groundbreaking work has had a lasting impact on the field of narratology and continues to be a seminal text. It is a testament to Richardson's legacy as a scholar whose work has shaped the way we think about narrative.