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 University Press, 2006. xiii + 166 pp. The late Brian Richardson, an influential scholar in the field of narratology, explored the concept of extreme narration in his work. Published as part of the Ohio State University Press's series on the Theory and Interpretation of Narrative, Richardson's book delves into the complexities of modern and contemporary fiction, examining how authors challenge traditional narrative conventions.

Richardson introduces the concept of extreme narration, which he defines as narratives that go beyond the conventional limits of storytelling. He argues that extreme narration is a hallmark of modern and postmodern fiction, pointing to works like those of Samuel Beckett, Franz Kafka, and William S. Burroughs. Through a close reading of these texts, Richardson demonstrates how extreme narration challenges readers to question the nature of narrative itself.

Richardson's work is not without its critics. Some argue that his emphasis on the avant-garde aspects of extreme narration fails to capture the breadth of modern and contemporary fiction. Despite these criticisms, Richardson's book remains a seminal work in the field of narratology, offering insights into the complex and evolving nature of modern narrative practice.

In conclusion, Unnatural Voices: Extreme Narration in Modern and Contemporary Fiction is a must-read for students and scholars of literary theory and narratology. It provides a deep and nuanced exploration of an important aspect of modern and contemporary fiction, making it a valuable contribution to the ongoing conversation about the nature of narrative.