



Crusoes and Other Castaways in Modern French Literature: Solitary Adventures

Joseph Acquisto

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Crusoes and Other Castaways in Modern French Literature: Solitary Adventures Joseph Acquisto *Crusoes and Other Castaways in Modern French Literature: Solitary Adventures* by Joseph Acquisto examines the many ways in which the castaway, particularly in the form of engagement with *Robinson Crusoe*, has been reinterpreted and appropriated in nineteenth through twenty-first century French literature. The book is not merely a literary history of the *robinsonnade* in France; rather, Acquisto demonstrates how what he calls the genre of “solitary adventure” becomes a vehicle for exploration of much larger questions about the reception of texts, modes of reading, and the relationship between popular and serious literary traditions. The heart of *Crusoes and Other Castaways in Modern French Literature* examines a crucial moment in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries when the history of cultural perspectives on reading and solitude intersect, catalyzing a reconsideration of Defoe’s tale. Acquisto’s philosophically inflected readings of works by writers from Rousseau to Balzac, Verne to Gide, Valéry to Tournier enhance intertextual and cultural approaches to the castaway myth and broaden our appreciation of the dynamic relation it has to modern French literature writ large.

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