



City Codes: Reading the Modern Urban Novel

By Hana Wirth-Nesher

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City Codes: Reading the Modern Urban Novel By Hana Wirth-Nesher

City Codes is a study of the representation of the city in the modern novel that takes difference as its point of departure, so that cities are read according to the cultural and social position of the urbanite. City Codes argues that the modern urban novel, in contrast to earlier novels, is characterized by an intersection of public and private space, but that this intersection is mapped differently according to the position of the city dweller in terms of history, politics, nationality, gender, class, and race.

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City Codes: Reading the Modern Urban Novel By Hana Wirth-Nesher Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #6012906 in Books
- Published on: 2008-02-04
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.98" h x .59" w x 5.98" l, .85 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 260 pages

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Editorial Review

Review

"She provides an excellent comparative analysis of various cityscapes, showing how they vary as they are experienced by expatriates, tourists, provincials, immigrants, women, and African Americans. Moreover, the author makes good use of other disciplines, especially the visual arts, to illustrate key aspects of the fiction. Necessary reading for anyone interested in the modern novel." *Choice*

"Hana Wirth-Nesher's study of the modern urban novel is remarkable for its clarity of argument, its impressive structural and rhetorical qualities, and its wonderful appreciation of difference..." Brock Clarke, *American Studies International*

"Wirth-Nesher's roster is impressive and each author's contribution is distinctive." Jerome Klinkowitz, *American Studies*

"City Codes recuperates an earlier mode of literary discourse and redefines the modern urban novel. Neither the male nor female viewer is sufficient condition, Hana Wirth-Nesher's analysis implies, and in so doing she makes available for further study and exploration the riches of urban fiction. That is one of the most impressive achievements of this most important book." *Comparative Literature*

From the Back Cover

City Codes is a study of the representation of the city in the modern novel that takes difference as its point of departure, so that cities are read according to the cultural and social position of the urbanite. City Codes argues that the modern urban novel, in contrast to earlier novels, is characterized by an intersection of public and private space, but that this intersection is mapped differently according to the position of the city dweller in terms of history, politics, nationality, gender, class, and race. City Codes foregrounds setting in the reading and writing of narrative, and specifically maps the modern urban novel as a text in which boundaries dividing private and public space disappear. It moves from boundaries inscribed onto the cityscape to distances experienced by the city dwellers; its "real" and textual cities are Warsaw, Jerusalem, New York, Chicago, Paris, London, and Dublin.

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Lamont Williams:

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