



Representations of Femininity in American Genre Cinema: The Woman's Film, Film Noir, and Modern Horror

David Greven

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The theme of female transformation informs the Hollywood representation of femininity from the studio era to the present. Whether it occurs physically, emotionally, or on some other level, transformation allows female protagonists to negotiate their own complex desires and to resist the compulsory marriage plot. A sweeping study of Hollywood from *Now, Voyager*, *The Heiress*, and *Flamingo Road* to *Carrie*, the *Alien* films, *The Brave One*, and the slasher horror genre, this book boldly unsettles commonplace understandings of genre film, female sexuality, and Freudian theory as it makes a strong new case for the queer relevance of female representation.

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