



Monsters in America

By W. Scott Poole

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Monsters in America By W. Scott Poole

Salem witches, frontier wilderness beasts, freak show oddities, alien invasions, Freddie Krueger. From our colonial past to the present, the monster in all its various forms has been a staple of American culture. A masterful survey of our grim and often disturbing past, *Monsters in America* uniquely brings together history and culture studies to expose the dark obsessions that have helped create our national identity.

Monsters are not just fears of the individual psyche, historian Scott Poole explains, but are concoctions of the public imagination, reactions to cultural influences, social change, and historical events. Conflicting anxieties about race, class, gender, sexuality, religious beliefs, science, and politics manifest as haunting beings among the populace. From Victorian-era mad scientists to modern-day serial killers, new monsters appear as American society evolves, paralleling fluctuating challenges to the cultural status quo. Consulting newspaper accounts, archival materials, personal papers, comic books, films, and oral histories, Poole adroitly illustrates how the creation of the monstrous "other" not only reflects society's fears but shapes actual historical behavior and becomes a cultural reminder of inhuman acts.

Monsters in America is now online at www.monstersinamerica.com. Visit the new website for more about the book, upcoming events, and to keep up with Scott Poole's blog.

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Monsters in America By W. Scott Poole Bibliography

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Editorial Review

Review

"Poole brings to life American horror stories by framing them within folk belief, religion, and popular culture, broadly unraveling the idea of the monster. Thanks to Poole's insights we see the ubiquity of the monster lurking in and around us."

--John David Smith, Charles H. Stone Distinguished Professor of American History, The University of North Carolina at Charlotte

"Poole's connection of the monster to American history is a kind of Creature Features meets American cultural history. Here we not only meet such monsters but also discover America's cultural monstrosity."

--John W. Morehead, editor, TheoFantastique.com

"A well informed, thoughtful, and indeed frightening angle of vision to a persistent and compelling American desire to be entertained by the grotesque and the horrific."

--Gary Laderman, Professor of American Religious History and Cultures, Emory University

"With *Monsters in America*, W. Scott Poole has given us a guidebook for a journey into nightmare territory. Insightful and brilliant!"

--Jonathan Maberry, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Patient Zero* and *Dead of Night*

"An unexpected guilty pleasure! Poole invites us into an important and enlightening, if disturbing, conversation about the very real monsters that inhabit the dark spaces of Americas past."

--J. Gordon Melton, Director, Institute for the Study of American Religion

"From 19th century sea serpents to our current obsession with vampires and zombies, ... Poole plots America's past through its fears in this intriguing ...sociocultural history."

--*Publishers Weekly*

"Poole ... has set the bar ridiculously high for any future research exploring the locus of historical and cultural studies, particularly as it pertains to the horrific. ... *Monsters In America* challenges, enlightens, and, quite honestly, frightens in its prescient view of American history, as well as the seeming ubiquity of the monsters of our past and probable future."

--*The Crawlspace*

"After reading *Monsters in America*, a reader will view monsters in a completely different light. No longer just something that goes bump in the night, Mr. Poole showcases that monsters have more meaning and shed more insight into society than one might have previously suspected. Well-written and engaging, *Monsters in America* is a must-read for anyone fascinated by history or monsters or both."

--That's What She Read

"While we can never isolate all the elements contributing to our horror stories, Poole looks at the distinct soil that produced *Monsters in America*. He lurks in the forests and depths that gave rise to Moby Dick, the Headless Horseman and even Bigfoot. Writing from his faculty position at the College of Charleston, Poole locates many of our manias in racial fears and tensions.

--Purple State of Mind

"The story of monsters, Poole rightly observes, is actually the "underground history of the United States.... American monsters are born out of American history." Monsters reveal what simultaneously enthralls and repels us, whether it's leviathanesque sea monsters off the shores of 17th-century New England or Stephenie Meyer's puritanical, defanged Edward Cullen addressing contemporary America's split-personality longing for a supersexy Ozzie-and-Harriet family."

--Jana Riess, Beliefnet

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--Jana Riess, Beliefnet

From the Inside Flap

The history of America -- one fear, one monster, at a time

About the Author

W. Scott Poole is Associate Professor of History at the College of Charleston. His most recent publications include *Satan in America: The Devil We Know*, *The Palmetto State: A Short History*, and *South Carolina's Civil War: A Narrative History*. His book *Never Surrender: Confederate Memory and Conservatism in the South Carolina Upcountry* was the 2004 winner of the George C. Rogers Award for Best Book in South Carolina History.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Randy Hunter:

Why don't make it to become your habit? Right now, try to prepare your time to do the important action, like looking for your favorite book and reading a guide. Beside you can solve your problem; you can add your knowledge by the e-book entitled *Monsters in America*. Try to make the book *Monsters in America* as your friend. It means that it can being your friend when you sense alone and beside that of course make you smarter than in the past. Yeah, it is very fortunated in your case. The book makes you considerably more confidence because you can know almost everything by the book. So , let me make new experience and also knowledge with this book.

Arthur Reaves:

The book untitled Monsters in America contain a lot of information on that. The writer explains her idea with easy means. The language is very clear to see all the people, so do definitely not worry, you can easy to read the item. The book was compiled by famous author. The author provides you in the new period of literary works. It is possible to read this book because you can please read on your smart phone, or model, so you can read the book within anywhere and anytime. In a situation you wish to purchase the e-book, you can open their official web-site along with order it. Have a nice study.

Linda Williams:

That publication can make you to feel relax. This kind of book Monsters in America was vibrant and of course has pictures around. As we know that book Monsters in America has many kinds or category. Start from kids until adolescents. For example Naruto or Private eye Conan you can read and believe that you are the character on there. Therefore , not at all of book usually are make you bored, any it offers up you feel happy, fun and relax. Try to choose the best book in your case and try to like reading in which.

Michael Berube:

A number of people said that they feel uninterested when they reading a publication. They are directly felt the item when they get a half elements of the book. You can choose the actual book Monsters in America to make your own reading is interesting. Your current skill of reading expertise is developing when you such as reading. Try to choose simple book to make you enjoy to read it and mingle the opinion about book and studying especially. It is to be initially opinion for you to like to wide open a book and go through it. Beside that the book Monsters in America can to be a newly purchased friend when you're experience alone and confuse with the information must you're doing of these time.

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