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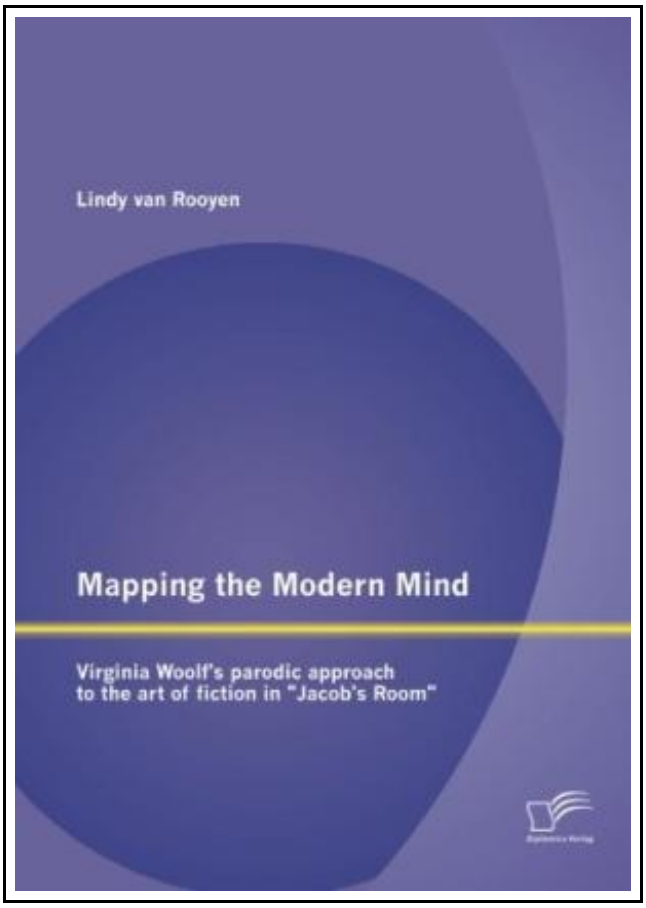

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MAPPING THE MODERN MIND: VIRGINIA WOOLFS PARODIC APPROACH TO THE ART OF FICTION IN JACOBS ROOM

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Diplomica Verlag Gmbh. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Paperback. 128 pages. Dimensions: 8.3in. x 5.8in. x 0.3in.In this study the author conducts a close reading of Virginia Woolfs first experimental novel, Jacobs Room (1922). Her reading is based on the fundamental premise that the novel is an exploration of fictional form, rather than an exposition of any preconceived idea. Jacobs Room is an essentially modernist text, and is characterised by extensive genre-mixing typical of the art of fiction in the early 20th century. Throughout her study the author analyses the extent to which the novel transgress the boundaries of the novelistic genre. She explores the generic interface between the novel and those genres which are deemed to be innate to Virginia Woolfs sensibility, i. e. the journalistic essay, biography and impressionist painting. The premise of this study leads the author to read the novel on two levels of significance: On the narrative, surface level of the novel, Woolf constructs the tragic life of a promising young Englishman, Jacob Flanders, who dies in the First World War. Simultaneously, on the metafictional level of significance, Woolf, through her garrulous narrator, mocks and evaluates the actions of her characters, experimenting with various points of view in an attempt to define the character of her protagonist. Jacobs room is thus conceived as a mental space in which a modern writers mind is mapped. The central aesthetic question which is debated in this room or forum relates to the essential art of modern fiction in general and the efficiency of characterisation in fiction in particular. It is argued that Virginia Woolf probes into the epistemic question of the essence of modern man and, in an attempt to capture the essence of her protagonist, speculates on the corresponding literary question how, and to what extent, the soul...

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