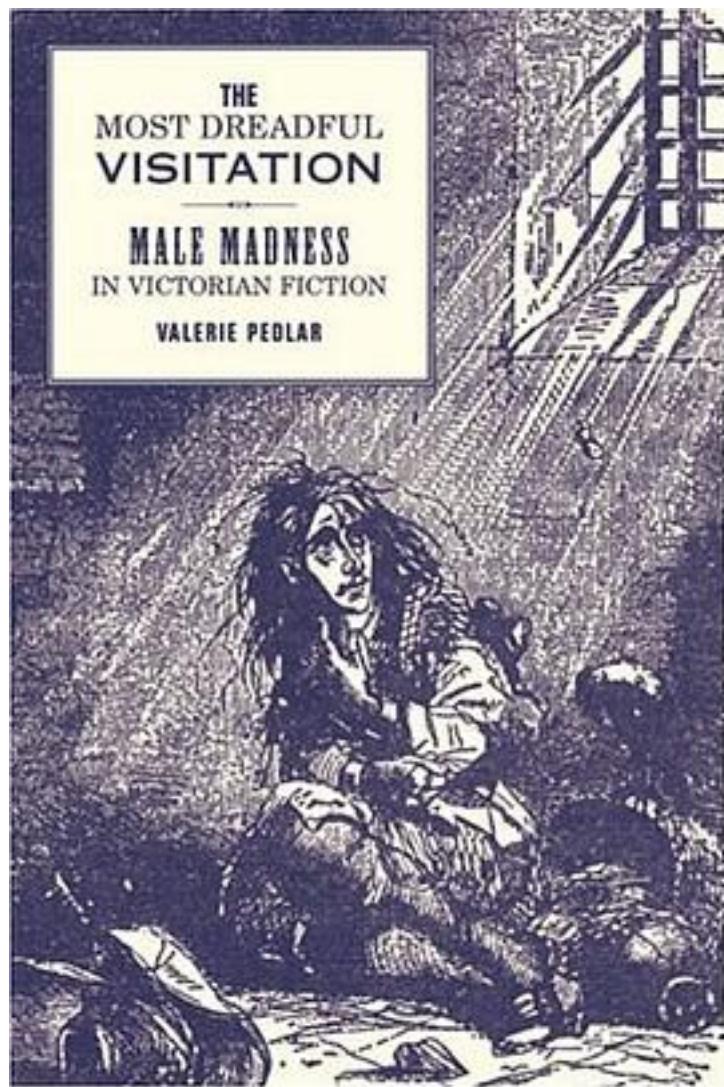


# The Most Dreadful Visitation



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A PDF version of this book is available for free in open access via the OAPEN Library platform. Victorian literature is rife with scenes of madness, with mental disorder functioning as everything from a simple plot device to a commentary on the foundations of Victorian society. But while madness in Victorian fiction has been much studied, most scholarship has focused on the portrayal of madness in women; male mental disorder in the period has suffered comparative neglect. Valerie Pedlar corrects this imbalance in *The 'Most Dreadful Visitation'*. This extraordinary study explores a wide range of Victorian writings to consider the relationship between the portrayal of mental illness in literary works and the portrayal of similar disorders in the writings of doctors and psychologists. Pedlar presents in-depth studies of Dickens' *Barnaby Rudge*, Tennyson's *Maud*, Wilkie Collins' *Basil*, and Trollope's *He Knew He Was Right*, considering each work in the context of Victorian understandings - and fears - of mental degeneracy.

作者介绍:

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标签

madness

fiction

Victorian

评论

对madness的关注与呈现，如同维多利亚人对sickroom的痴迷，都是要在真实的世界中植入一点不真实的东西，这在癫狂中表现为一种sensation，因此格外受sensation novel和Gothic fiction的青睐。而对精神疾病的确诊及其治疗方式(无论是法国大革命式的还是宗教式的)至少在19世纪还保持着其moral judgement的属性，这再次说明了医学作为一种社会科学的可能性。另，这本书的introduction写得很清晰，即便不深入文本，也可作参考使用。

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书评

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