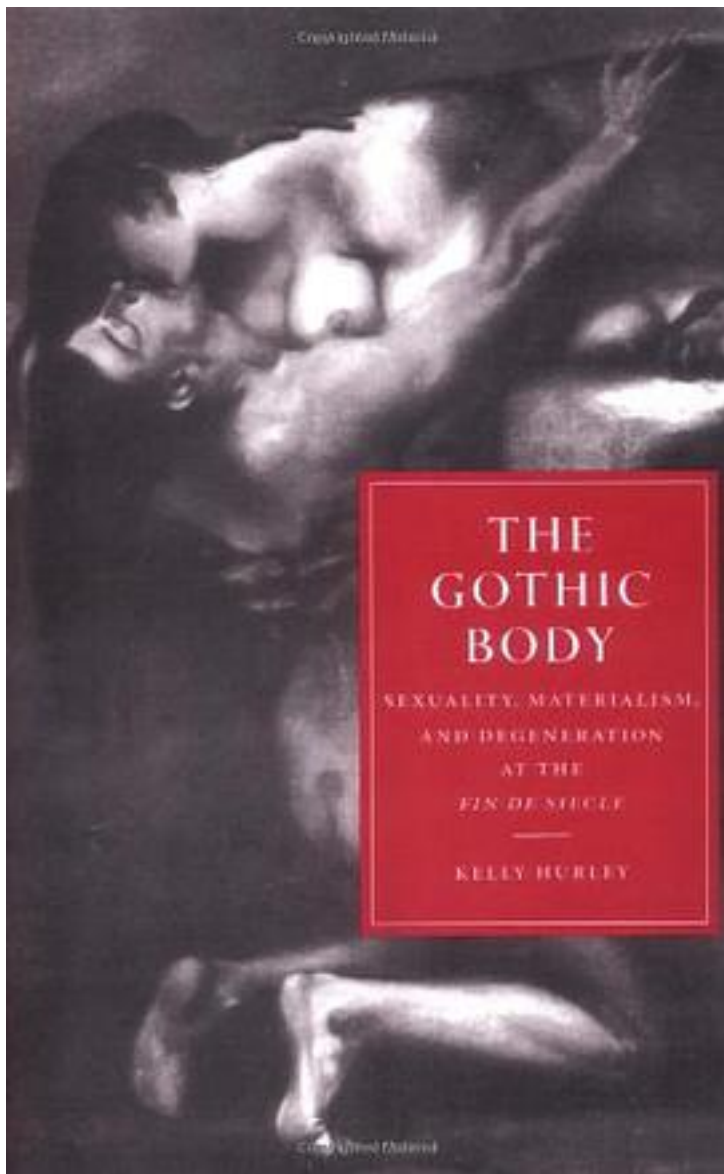


The Gothic Body



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Readers familiar with Dracula and The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde may not know that dozens of equally remarkable Gothic texts were written in Great Britain at the end of the nineteenth-century. This book accounts for the resurgence of Gothic, and its immense popularity, during the British fin de siècle. Kelly Hurley explores a key scenario that haunts the genre: the loss of a unified and stable human identity, and the emergence of a chaotic and transformative 'abhuman' identity in its place. She shows that such representations of Gothic bodies are strongly indebted to those found in nineteenth-century biology and social medicine, evolutionism, criminal anthropology, and degeneration theory. Gothic is revealed as a highly productive and speculative genre, standing in opportunistic relation to nineteenth-century scientific and social theories.

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标签

评论

和读的上一本比，这本简直算科普读物了。二者的一个连结点是维多利亚中期以降的文类对女性身体的偏见刻画，如果说sensation novel讲的还只是diseased feminine body，那到了世纪末的哥特小说那里，女性已然成了abhuman。其实不管是哥特小说还是degeneration theory，其本质都是一场末日恐慌，只不过小说带来的恐惧很容易识别，科学却披着权威的外衣带来更多荒唐。或许，把科学也当做一种叙事比较可靠。另，自Wells的The War of the Worlds之后，Gothic就要与sci-fi合流了，之前没少被安利这本书，抽空可得看一下了。

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