



## The Victorian Novel Dreams of the Real: Conventions and Ideology

By Audrey Jaffe

Download now

Read Online →

### The Victorian Novel Dreams of the Real: Conventions and Ideology By Audrey Jaffe

Critical discussions of the Victorian realist novel tend to focus on its vivid representations of everyday life. *The Victorian Novel Dreams of the Real* proposes that the genre is founded in desire, moving the novels not towards a shared reality but rather toward distinct fantasies: dreams of the real.

Rather than simply redefine Victorian realism or propose a new canon for it, *The Victorian Novel Dreams of the Real* argues that the real is inevitably, for the Victorian realist novel, an object of desire: what the novel seeks to capture and represent. A novel's construction of the real is therefore inseparable from its fantasy of the real--a formulation Audrey Jaffe refers to as "realist fantasy." One way in which this simultaneity manifests itself is that the conventions novels frequently use to represent characters' dreams, daydreams, and fantasies overlap with those each novel uses to create its realist effects. In new readings of Victorian novels (including Eliot's *Adam Bede*, Dickens's *Oliver Twist*, Hardy's *The Mayor of Casterbridge* and *The Return of the Native*, Trollope's *Orley Farm*, and Wilkie Collins's *Armada*), *The Victorian Novel Dreams of the Real* demonstrates that one of the signal effects of this overlapping is Victorian realism's construction of the real as an object of readerly desire.

Jaffe shows that realism and fantasy in the Victorian realist novel are not opposed, but rather occupy the same space and are shaped by the same conventions. Revisiting and reconsidering key elements of realist novel theory (including metonymy; the insignificant detail; character interiority; the representation of everyday life and the idea of disillusionment), *The Victorian Novel Dreams of the Real* also uncovers and anatomizes representational strategies unique to each text.

↓ [Download The Victorian Novel Dreams of the Real: Convention ...pdf](#)

📖 [Read Online The Victorian Novel Dreams of the Real: Conventi ...pdf](#)



# The Victorian Novel Dreams of the Real: Conventions and Ideology

By Audrey Jaffe

## The Victorian Novel Dreams of the Real: Conventions and Ideology By Audrey Jaffe

Critical discussions of the Victorian realist novel tend to focus on its vivid representations of everyday life. *The Victorian Novel Dreams of the Real* proposes that the genre is founded in desire, moving the novels not towards a shared reality but rather toward distinct fantasies: dreams of the real.

Rather than simply redefine Victorian realism or propose a new canon for it, *The Victorian Novel Dreams of the Real* argues that the real is inevitably, for the Victorian realist novel, an object of desire: what the novel seeks to capture and represent. A novel's construction of the real is therefore inseparable from its fantasy of the real--a formulation Audrey Jaffe refers to as "realist fantasy." One way in which this simultaneity manifests itself is that the conventions novels frequently use to represent characters' dreams, daydreams, and fantasies overlap with those each novel uses to create its realist effects. In new readings of Victorian novels (including Eliot's *Adam Bede*, Dickens's *Oliver Twist*, Hardy's *The Mayor of Casterbridge* and *The Return of the Native*, Trollope's *Orley Farm*, and Wilkie Collins's *Armadale*), *The Victorian Novel Dreams of the Real* demonstrates that one of the signal effects of this overlapping is Victorian realism's construction of the real as an object of readerly desire.

Jaffe shows that realism and fantasy in the Victorian realist novel are not opposed, but rather occupy the same space and are shaped by the same conventions. Revisiting and reconsidering key elements of realist novel theory (including metonymy; the insignificant detail; character interiority; the representation of everyday life and the idea of disillusionment), *The Victorian Novel Dreams of the Real* also uncovers and anatomizes representational strategies unique to each text.

## The Victorian Novel Dreams of the Real: Conventions and Ideology By Audrey Jaffe Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #709613 in Books
- Published on: 2016-04-05
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 5.90" h x .90" w x 8.40" l,
- Binding: Hardcover
- 200 pages

 [Download The Victorian Novel Dreams of the Real: Convention ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The Victorian Novel Dreams of the Real: Conventi ...pdf](#)

**Download and Read Free Online The Victorian Novel Dreams of the Real: Conventions and Ideology  
By Audrey Jaffe**

---

**Editorial Review**

Review

The author's "meticulously constructed argument compels readers to reflect on just how much their sense of the "realistic" has been constituted by realism's own wishful thinking. This singular intervention invites us to look up from the business of seeking out the "real" and directs us back to the literary source of that desire. It attunes us to how realism imagines itself as a genre and to how realist novels can help us understand "the real" itself as "a genre or mode, a system of representational rules" (p. 17). Most importantly, it illuminates an elusive question urgently worth pursuing: why is realism the form of fantasy that so many readers cannot stop dreaming about?" --Elaine Auyoung, *Nineteenth-Century Literature*

"Anyone interested in realism in the Victorian novel should read Jaffe's book. As she addresses the idea of realism in the Victorian novel, Jaffe (Univ. of Toronto) makes the case that these novels portray desire of the real, rather than the real itself. Focusing on such classics as George Eliot's *Adam Bede*, Thomas Hardy's *The Mayor of Casterbridge*, and Charles Dickens's *Oliver Twist*, Jaffe offers often-brilliant readings that are sophisticated in their attention to detail and in their awareness of critics' earlier claims about realism...Jaffe reminds one that Victorian fiction works with the tension between fantasy and the real, and she points out that critics who try to sever the two miss that productive tension." --S. Bernardo, *CHOICE*

"In this witty and audacious book, Audrey Jaffe tells us what we always wanted to know about Victorian realism but were too Victorian to ask for ourselves: realism is a desire for realism rather than its realization. Like our own dreams, realist novels build an unstable fantasy of solidity through their use of elaborate narrative defenses, fulfilling our wish for realism but only so as to make reality more manageable. Jaffe's book will change the way we understand literary realism, making us desire it all over again." --Mario Ortiz-Robles, author of *The Novel as Event*

"Rather than debunking the Victorian novel's claim on the real, Audrey Jaffe listens to it, with an intelligence at once skeptical and sympathetic. The result is a searching revelation of how thoroughly lined with fantasy is the desire for reality, and how powerfully anchored in the real are the most luridly sensational fictions. Along the way, Jaffe deftly demonstrates how the Victorians' reality hunger continues to animate our own critical fantasies." --David Kurnick, author of *Empty Houses: Theatrical Failure and the Novel*

"Jaffe argues that realism and fantasy overlap in the Victorian novel. Her account, showing how the period's desire to capture the real unsettles formal classifications, throws a revealing light on authors from Dickens to Virginia Woolf." --Patricia Ingham, author of *The Brontës*

About the Author

**Audrey Jaffe** is Professor of English at the University of Toronto.

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Thomas Depew:**

Have you spare time for just a day? What do you do when you have much more or little spare time? Yeah, you can choose the suitable activity for spend your time. Any person spent their own spare time to take a wander, shopping, or went to the particular Mall. How about open or even read a book called *The Victorian Novel Dreams of the Real: Conventions and Ideology*? Maybe it is for being best activity for you. You already know beside you can spend your time together with your favorite's book, you can better than before. Do you agree with it is opinion or you have other opinion?

#### **Judith Rayl:**

*The Victorian Novel Dreams of the Real: Conventions and Ideology* can be one of your beginning books that are good idea. We all recommend that straight away because this publication has good vocabulary that could increase your knowledge in words, easy to understand, bit entertaining but nevertheless delivering the information. The copy writer giving his/her effort that will put every word into enjoyment arrangement in writing *The Victorian Novel Dreams of the Real: Conventions and Ideology* although doesn't forget the main level, giving the reader the hottest as well as based confirm resource facts that maybe you can be among it. This great information can easily drawn you into completely new stage of crucial contemplating.

#### **Marjorie Batchelder:**

Does one one of the book lovers? If yes, do you ever feeling doubt if you find yourself in the book store? Attempt to pick one book that you just dont know the inside because don't determine book by its protect may doesn't work this is difficult job because you are afraid that the inside maybe not as fantastic as in the outside appearance likes. Maybe you answer might be *The Victorian Novel Dreams of the Real: Conventions and Ideology* why because the wonderful cover that make you consider in regards to the content will not disappoint a person. The inside or content is usually fantastic as the outside or even cover. Your reading 6th sense will directly make suggestions to pick up this book.

#### **John Keys:**

In this particular era which is the greater man or who has ability to do something more are more treasured than other. Do you want to become among it? It is just simple method to have that. What you need to do is just spending your time not very much but quite enough to have a look at some books. One of many books in the top list in your reading list is usually *The Victorian Novel Dreams of the Real: Conventions and Ideology*. This book that is certainly qualified as *The Hungry Hills* can get you closer in turning out to be precious person. By looking way up and review this e-book you can get many advantages.

**Download and Read Online The Victorian Novel Dreams of the  
Real: Conventions and Ideology By Audrey Jaffe  
#FZ0WMC5R3BH**

## **Read The Victorian Novel Dreams of the Real: Conventions and Ideology By Audrey Jaffe for online ebook**

The Victorian Novel Dreams of the Real: Conventions and Ideology By Audrey Jaffe Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read The Victorian Novel Dreams of the Real: Conventions and Ideology By Audrey Jaffe books to read online.

### **Online The Victorian Novel Dreams of the Real: Conventions and Ideology By Audrey Jaffe ebook PDF download**

**The Victorian Novel Dreams of the Real: Conventions and Ideology By Audrey Jaffe Doc**

**The Victorian Novel Dreams of the Real: Conventions and Ideology By Audrey Jaffe Mobipocket**

**The Victorian Novel Dreams of the Real: Conventions and Ideology By Audrey Jaffe EPub**