



Is "Caleb Williams" a Jacobin Novel?

By Markus Widmer

GRIN Verlag Nov 2008, 2008. sonst. Bücher. Book Condition: Neu. 210x148x1 mm. This item is printed on demand - Print on Demand Neuware - Essay from the year 1998 in the subject English Language and Literature Studies - Literature, printed single-sided, grade: 2 (B), University of Aberdeen (English Seminar), course: Romantics and Revolutionaries, 5 entries in the bibliography, language: English, abstract: In this essay, I will approach the term Jacobin novel with several definitions, attempting to cover as many aspects of William Godwin's novel Caleb Williams and its background as possible. I will discuss with each definition whether it is applicable to the novel, or not. In the first part of the essay, the definition will be concerned with the political background of the author, mainly. Then I will consider the political philosophy inherent in the novel itself. Finally, I will investigate the aesthetics of Caleb Williams, and discuss whether these contradict the political content of the novel. The first difficulties when trying to define the term Jacobin novel arise with the word Jacobin. It has been used in the English Revolution debate of the 1790s mainly by the conservatives, counter-revolutionaries, or Anti-Jacobins to name, or rather denounce, the...



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