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Cultural and Media Studies : Youth Culture

Renner, Karen J.

# Evil Children in the Popular Imagination

- Examines "evil" child narratives as they appear in a wide variety of popular texts
- Argues that every subtype of the "evil" child narratives sheds light on a central issue linked to childhood
- Illustrates how the "evil" child narratives transform over time as a result of a period's circumstances and ideologies

Focusing on narratives with supernatural components, Karen J. Renner argues that the recent proliferation of stories about evil children demonstrates not a declining faith in the innocence of childhood but a desire to preserve its purity. From novels to music videos, photography to video games, the evil child haunts a range of texts and comes in a variety of forms, including changelings, ferals, and monstrous newborns. In this book, Renner illustrates how each subtype offers a different explanation for the problem of the "evil" child and adapts to changing historical circumstances and ideologies.

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