



Richard Beckman

# Charm in Literature from Classical to Modernism

Charmed Life

- **Informed by psychology, history, aestheticism, and affect theory**
- **Definitive study showcasing the nuanced use of charm in literature including abrasive charm, uncanny charm, and more**
- **Provides a wide-ranging reading of the literary etymology of charm**

Charm in Literature from Classical to Modernism: Charmed Life discusses charm as both an emotional and aesthetic phenomenon. Beginning with the first appearance of literary charm in the Sirens episode of the *Odyssey*, Richard Beckman traces charm throughout canonical literature, examining the metamorphoses of charm through the millennia. The book examines the works of Chaucer, Spenser, Shakespeare, Milton, Pope, Wordsworth, Coleridge, Proust, Joyce, Mann, and others, considering the multiplicity of ways charm is defined, depicted, and utilized by authors. Positioning these poems, dramas, and novels as case studies, Beckman reveals the mercurial yet enduring connotations of charm.

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