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New Casebooks

THE MILL ON THE FLOSS
and
SILAS MARNER

GEORGE ELIOT

EDITED BY NAHEM YOUSAF
AND ANDREW MAUNDER

palgrave

Introduction, selection and editorial matter
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First published 2002 by

PALGRAVE

Houndmills, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG21 6XS and
175 Fifth Avenue, New York, N. Y. 10010

Companies and representatives throughout the world

PALGRAVE is the new global academic imprint of
St. Martin's Press LLC Scholarly and Reference Division and
Palgrave Publishers Ltd (formerly Macmillan Press Ltd).

ISBN 978-0-333-72804-8 hardback

ISBN 978-0-333-72805-5 ISBN 978-0-230-21296-1 (eBook)

DOI 10.1007/978-0-230-21296-1

This book is printed on paper suitable for recycling and made from fully managed and sustained forest sources.

Cataloguing-in-publication data

A catalogue record for this book is available
from the British Library.

A catalogue record for this book is available
from the Library of Congress

10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
10	09	08	07	06	05	04	03	02	01

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Acknowledgements

The editor and publishers wish to thank the following for permission to use copyright material:

Terence Dawson, for “‘Light enough to trusten by’”: Structure and Experience in *Silas Marner*’, *The Modern Language Review*, 88:1 (1993), 26–45, by permission of the author and the Modern Humanities Research Association; Joshua D. Esty, for ‘Nationhood, Adulthood, and the Ruptures of *Bildung*: Arresting Development in *The Mill on the Floss*’, *Narrative*, 4:2 (1996), 144–59. Copyright © 1996 by the Ohio State University Press, by permission of Ohio State University Press; Susan Fraiman, for material from *Unbecoming Women: British Women Writers and the Novel of Development* by Susan Fraiman, pp.121–41. Copyright © 1993 Columbia University Press, by permission of Columbia University Press; Mary Jacobus, for material from *Reading Women: Essays in Feminist Criticism* by Mary Jacobus, pp.62–79. Copyright © 1986 Columbia University Press, by permission of Routledge and Columbia University Press; José Angel García Landa, for ‘The Chains of Semiosis: Semiotics, Marxism, and the Female Stereotypes in *The Mill on the Floss*’, *Papers on Language and Literature*, 27:1 (1991), 41–50. Copyright © 1991 by the Board of Trustees, Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville, by permission of *Papers on Language and Literature*, Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville; J. Hillis Miller, for ‘The Two Rhetorics: George Elliot’s Bestiary’ from *Writing and Reading Differently: Deconstruction and the Teaching of Composition and Literature*, ed. G. Douglas Atkins and Michael L. Johnson (1985), pp.101–14, by permission of University Press of Kansas; Jeff Nunokawa, for ‘The Miser’s Two Bodies: *Silas Marner* and the Sexual Possibilities of the Commodity’, *Victorian Studies*, 36:3 (1993), 273–92, by permission of Indiana University Press; Jim Reilly, for material from

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General Editors' Preface

The purpose of this series of New Casebooks is to reveal some of the ways in which contemporary criticism has changed our understanding of commonly studied texts and writers and, indeed, of the nature of criticism itself. Central to the series is a concern with modern critical theory and its effect on current approaches to the study of literature. Each New Casebook editor has been asked to select a sequence of essays which will introduce the reader to the new critical approaches to the text or texts being discussed in the volume and also illuminate the rich interchange between critical theory and critical practice that characterises so much current writing about literature.

In this focus on modern critical thinking and practice New Casebooks aim not only to inform but also to stimulate, with volumes seeking to reflect both the controversy and the excitement of current criticism. Because much of this criticism is difficult and often employs an unfamiliar critical language, editors have been asked to give the reader as much help as they feel is appropriate, but without simplifying the essays or the issues they raise. Again, editors have been asked to supply a list of further reading which will enable readers to follow up issues raised by the essays in the volume.

The project of New Casebooks, then, is to bring together in an illuminating way those critics who best illustrate the ways in which contemporary criticism has established new methods of analysing texts and who have reinvigorated the important debate about how we 'read' literature. The hope is, of course, that New Casebooks will not only open up this debate to a wider audience, but will also encourage students to extend their own ideas, and think afresh about their responses to the texts they are studying.

John Peck and Martin Coyle
University of Wales, Cardiff