

Contents

Preface	ix
Introduction: New Forms in Old Formats	xi
1 "The Play's the Thing": Self-Conscious Perspectives	1
2 Symmetries of Time: Historical Paradigms and Their Literary Counterparts	12
3 The Detectives: Methods, Methodology, and the Powers of Mind	21
4 The Detectives: Eccentricity, Moral Truth, and the Creature Comforts	31
5 A Language for the Happy Few: Authenticity and Symptomatic Meanings	39
6 Why Murder?	51
7 Psychological Balance and the Morality of Distance	64
8 Social Worlds: The Microcosm and the Larger Reality	79
9 The "Silent Life of Things" in Novel and Film	92
10 Sequels and Series: The Reconciliation of Psychology and Myth	100

Conclusion	107
Notes	113
Fiction Quoted in the Text	116
Bibliography	119
Index	122