

CREATURAL FICTIONS

Palgrave Studies in Animals and Literature

Series editors: Prof Susan McHugh (University of New England, USA), Dr Robert McKay (University of Sheffield, UK) and Dr John Miller (University of Sheffield, UK)

Before the 2000s, the humanities and social sciences paid little attention to the participation of non-human animals in human cultures. The entrenched idea of the human as a unique kind of being nourished a presumption that *Homo sapiens* should be the proper object of study for these fields, to the exclusion of lives beyond the human. Against this background, various academic disciplines can now be found in the process of executing an 'animal turn', questioning the ethical and philosophical grounds of human exceptionalism by taking seriously the animal presences that haunt the margins of history, anthropology, philosophy, sociology and literary studies.

This series will publish work that looks specifically at the implications of the 'animal turn' for the field of Literary Studies. Whereas animals are conventionally read as objects of fable, allegory or metaphor (that is, as signs of specifically human concerns), this series significantly extends the new insights of interdisciplinary animal studies by tracing the engagement of such figuration with the material lives of animals. The series will encourage the examination of textual cultures as variously embodying a debt to or an intimacy with non-human animals and advance understanding of how the aesthetic engagements of literary arts have always done more than simply illustrate natural history.

Susan McHugh is Professor of English at the University of New England, USA.

Robert McKay is Senior Lecturer in English Literature at the University of Sheffield, UK.

John Miller is Lecturer in English Literature at the University of Sheffield, UK.

Editorial Board:

Philip Armstrong, University of Canterbury, New Zealand; Erica Fudge, University of Strathclyde, UK; David Herman, Durham University, UK; Kevin Hutchings, University of Northern British Columbia, Canada; Carrie Rohman, Lafayette College, USA; Karl Steel, Brooklyn College, CUNY, USA; Wendy Woodward, University of the Western Cape, South Africa.

Titles include:

Kathryn Kirkpatrick and Borbála Farago (*editors*)
ANIMALS IN IRISH LITERATURE AND CULTURE

David Herman (*editor*)
CREATORIAL FICTIONS: HUMAN-ANIMAL RELATIONSHIPS IN
TWENTIETH- AND TWENTY-FIRST-CENTURY LITERATURE

Palgrave Studies in Animals and Literature

Series Standing Order ISBN 978-1-1374-8778-0 hardback
978-1-1374-8779-7 paperback

(*outside North America only*)

You can receive future titles in this series as they are published by placing a standing order. Please contact your bookseller or, in case of difficulty, write to us at the address below with your name and address, the title of the series and one of the ISBNs quoted above.

Customer Services Department, Macmillan Distribution Ltd, Houndmills, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG21 6XS, England

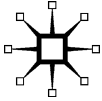
CREATORIAL FICTIONS

Human-Animal Relationships in Twentieth- and
Twenty-First-Century Literature

Edited by

David Herman

palgrave
macmillan



CREATURAL FICTIONS

Selection and editorial content © David Herman 2016
Individual chapters © their respective contributors 2016
Softcover reprint of the hardcover 1st edition 2016 978-1-137-52066-1

All rights reserved. No reproduction, copy or transmission of this publication may be made without written permission. No portion of this publication may be reproduced, copied or transmitted save with written permission. In accordance with the provisions of the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988, or under the terms of any licence permitting limited copying issued by the Copyright Licensing Agency, Saffron House, 6-10 Kirby Street, London EC1N 8TS.

Any person who does any unauthorized act in relation to this publication may be liable to criminal prosecution and civil claims for damages.

First published 2016 by
PALGRAVE MACMILLAN

The authors have asserted their rights to be identified as the authors of this work in accordance with the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988.

Palgrave Macmillan in the UK is an imprint of Macmillan Publishers Limited, registered in England, company number 785998, of Houndmills, Basingstoke, Hampshire, RG21 6XS.

Palgrave Macmillan in the US is a division of Nature America, Inc., One New York Plaza, Suite 4500, New York, NY 10004-1562.

Palgrave Macmillan is the global academic imprint of the above companies and has companies and representatives throughout the world.

ISBN: 978-1-349-55752-3
E-PDF ISBN: 978-1-137-51811-8
DOI: 10.1007/978-1-137-51811-8

Distribution in the UK, Europe and the rest of the world is by Palgrave Macmillan®, a division of Macmillan Publishers Limited, registered in England, company number 785998, of Houndmills, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG21 6XS.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Creatural fictions : human-animal relationships in twentieth and twenty-first century literature / edited by David Herman.
pages cm.—(Palgrave studies in animals and literature)
Includes bibliographical references and index.

1. Animals in literature. 2. Human-animal relationships in literature.
3. Animals and civilization. 4. Literature, Modern—20th century—
History and criticism. 5. Literature, Modern—21st century—History
and criticism. I. Herman, David, 1962– editor. II. Title: Human-animal
relationships in twentieth and twenty-first century literature.

PN56.A64C74 2014
809'.93362—dc23

2015022373

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

CONTENTS

<i>List of Figures</i>	vii
<i>Acknowledgments</i>	ix
Introduction Literature beyond the Human <i>David Herman</i>	1
Part I Literary Modernisms, Animal Worlds, and Trans-species Entanglements	
1 Kafka's Animal Stories: Modernist Form and Interspecies Narrative <i>Marianne DeKoven</i>	19
2 The Tortured Animals of Modernity: Animal Studies and Italian Literature <i>Damiano Benvegnù</i>	41
3 The Black Sheep: Djuna Barnes's Dark Pastoral <i>Andrew Kalaidjian</i>	65
Part II Literature beyond the Human I: Species, Sexuality, and Gender	
4 "Becoming Men" and Animal Sacrifice: Contemporary Literary Examples <i>Josephine Donovan</i>	91
5 A Tail for Two Theorists: The Problem of the Female Monster in Katherine Dunn's <i>Geek Love</i> <i>Rajesh Reddy</i>	109
6 Friendship; Or, Representing More-Than-Human Subjectivities and Spaces in J. R. Ackerley's <i>My Dog Tulip</i> <i>Shun Yin Kiang</i>	127

**Part III Literature beyond the Human II:
Human-Animal Interactions across Genres**

- 7 “A Little Wildness”: Negotiating Relationships between Human and Nonhuman in Historical Romance 151
Christy Tidwell
- 8 Animal Worlds and Anthropological Machines in Yann Martel’s Millennial Novel *Life of Pi* 173
Hilary Thompson
- 9 “Like Words Printed on Skin”: Desire, Animal Masks, and Multispecies Relationships in Monique Truong’s *The Book of Salt* 193
Nandini Thiyagarajan

**Part IV Human-Animal
Entanglements in Late-Twentieth- and
Early-Twenty-First-Century Fiction**

- 10 Horsescapes: Space, Nation, and Human-Horse Relations in Jane Smiley’s *Horse Heaven* 217
Jopi Nyman
- 11 Animal Others, Other People: Exploring Cetacean Personhood in Zakes Mda’s *The Whale Caller* 241
Craig Smith
- 12 Ghostly Presences: Tracing the Animal in Julia Leigh’s *The Hunter* 259
Roman Bartosch
- List of Contributors* 277
- Index* 281

FIGURES

- | | | |
|-----|--|----|
| 3.1 | Manuscript draft of “Rite of Spring” (Djuna Barnes Papers UMD) | 66 |
| 3.2 | Manuscript draft of “Vagrant Spring” with Barnes’s handwritten notes (Djuna Barnes Papers UMD) | 67 |
| 3.3 | “The Beast” published in <i>Ryder</i> (Djuna Barnes Papers UMD) | 78 |

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This volume was made possible by the generous assistance of many colleagues and friends, and I would like to acknowledge the invaluable help and encouragement provided by Jan Baetens, Paul Batchelor, Jens Brockmeier, David Fuller, Dan Grausam, Teemu Ikonen, Simon J. James, Jane MacNaughton, Bob McKay, Rebekah Mitsein, Mary Offutt-Reagin, Matthew Ratcliffe, Stephen Regan, Carrie Rohman, Corinne Saunders, Jenny Terry, Sam Thomas, Will Viney, and Angela Woods. I am also grateful to the editors of the Palgrave Studies in Animals and Literature series, Susan McHugh, Bob McKay, and John Miller, for their support of this project; to the reviewers of the volume (particularly Jeanne Dubino), for their invaluable suggestions for improvement; and to Ryan Jenkins, Shoba Rajeev, and Paileen Currie at the press, for their help with every stage of the editorial and production process. I thank Michele Mikesell, too, for her kind permission to use her painting *Missed Flight* as cover art. Closer to home, Sweet Beak provided uplifting trans-species companionship, while my deepest gratitude goes to Susan Moss—for the life that sustains.