



Blame Canada!: South Park and Contemporary Culture

By Toni Johnson-Woods

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Now running into its tenth season, South Park has still not "jumped the shark". Satirically edgier than The Simpsons, South Park responds immediately to cultural controversies: four days after Saddam Hussein's capture, an episode lampooned it, and the show has no fear in tackling subjects as divisive and outlandish as Terry Schiavo, The Passion of the Christ, Tom Cruise's alleged homosexuality, and Michael Jackson. Its mixture of iconoclasm, cultural referents, and intertextuality makes it the perfect lens through which to examine contemporary popular culture in America - and television's role in the creation of that culture.

Blame Canada! is a smart, readable book that will appeal to the show's many fans, placing the show in a tradition of fearless and often foul-mouthed satire dating back as far as Rabelais.

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Blame Canada!: South Park and Contemporary Culture By Toni Johnson-Woods Bibliography

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Editorial Review

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Australian pop-cultural scholar Johnson-Woods, who has also published on reality TV and pop fiction, lovingly limns Comedy Central's animated series *South Park*, in which a cast led by precocious little children has, over the years, lampooned matters sexual, political, and religious. No mere list of targets can do the show justice, as creators Trey Parker and Matt Stone spare nothing and nobody. So Johnson-Woods analyses episode plots, characters, and motivations, treating the showlike the legitimate object of social research that it is. Indeed, in her introduction she refers to *South Park* as "the postmodern pastiche par excellence."

Perhaps slightly more obscure than its older peers in animated social satire, *The Simpsons* and *King of the Hill*, the cable-bound *South Park* presents a wilder, higher-energy brand of satire whose complex, rapid-fire delivery Johnson-Woods helps viewers understand and appreciate. Interesting reading for both committed fans and the merely curious. *Mike Tribby*

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Review

"South Park's biggest badge of honour is that, ten seasons in, it remains lightning fast in its response to current events (four days for Saddam Hussein's capture). This book of essays shows it to be a surprisingly significant lens on US culture."

Empire

Mentioned.

(Eric Griffiths *New Statesman*)

Mentioned.

(Sanford Lakoff *New Statesman*)

About the Author

Toni Johnson-Woods is President of the Pop Culture Association of Australia (PopCANNZ) and Senior Lecturer in the English, Media Studies and Art History School at the University of Queensland.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Dawn Spigner:

The knowledge that you get from Blame Canada!: South Park and Contemporary Culture is a more deep you excavating the information that hide in the words the more you get serious about reading it. It doesn't mean that this book is hard to know but Blame Canada!: South Park and Contemporary Culture giving you excitement feeling of reading. The author conveys their point in certain way that can be understood simply by anyone who read the item because the author of this publication is well-known enough. This kind of book also makes your vocabulary increase well. Therefore it is easy to understand then can go with you, both in printed or e-book style are available. We suggest you for having this Blame Canada!: South Park and Contemporary Culture instantly.

Bonnie Boyd:

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