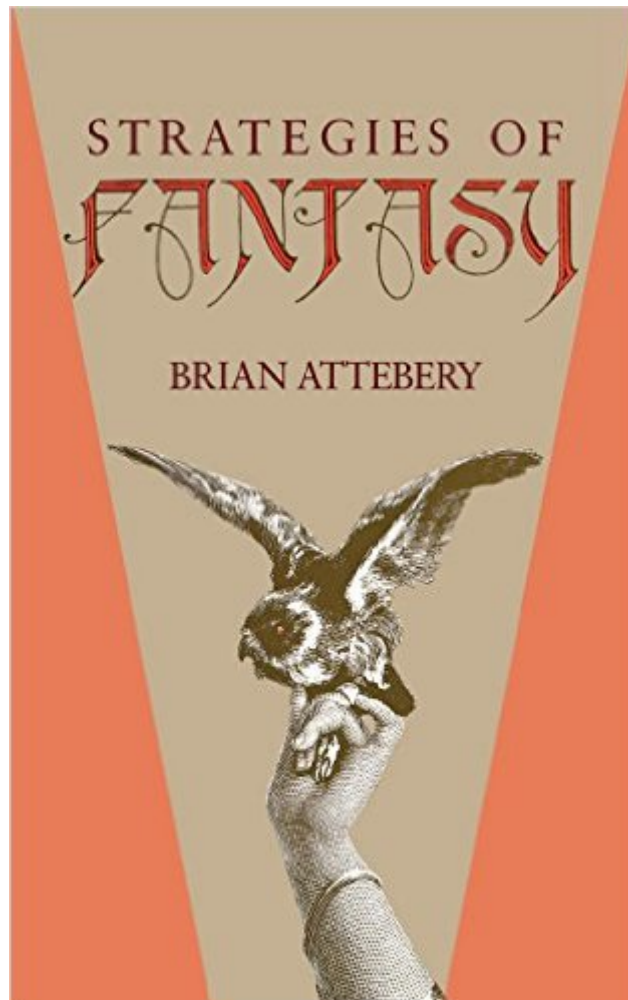


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Strategies Of Fantasy



Synopsis

Brian Attebery's "strategy of fantasy" include not only the writer's strategies for inventing believable impossibilities, but also the reader's strategies for enjoying, challenging, and conspiring with the text. Drawing on a number of current literary theories (but avoiding most of their jargon), Attebery makes a case for fantasy as a significant movement within postmodern literature rather than as a simple exercise of nostalgia. Attebery examines recent and classic fantasies by Ursula K. Le Guin, John Crowley, J.R.R. Tolkien, Diana Wynne Jones, and Gene Wolfe, among others. In both its popular and postmodern incarnations, fantastic fiction exhibits a remarkable capacity for reinventing narrative conventions. Attebery shows how plots, characters, settings, storytelling frameworks, gender divisions, and references to cultural texts such as history and science are all called into question the moment the marvelous is admitted into a story.

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"This is one of the most persuasive and well-reasoned accounts of how and why fantasy works and what its relationship is to canonical literature." — Gary K. Wolfe

Brian Attebery is Associate Professor of English and Director of American Studies at Idaho State University. He is author of *The Fantasy Tradition in American Literature*, one of the pioneering works in the field of fantasy scholarship.

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