

Burton, Brea Oneal. *The Cry: Silence and Sound in Six Contemporary Canadian Works of Fiction*. Thesis (MA [English]), University of Calgary. Ann Arbor: ProQuest/UMI, 2006. (Publication No. MR19038)

Abstract

The cry within fictional texts can be sexual, fearful, sorrowful, triumphant, animalistic, cathartic, but always raises multiple questions of articulation. The contemporary Canadian works studied here all contain instances of glossolalia, ululation, spelling, echolalia, babble, wedged in between words, demanding space for the disembodied voice, the displaced voice, the silenced voice. *A Jest of God* by Margaret Laurence, *What the Crow Said* by Robert Kroetsch, *The Double Hook* by Sheila Watson, "A Song for Nettie Johnson" by Gloria Sawai, *Beautiful Losers* by Leonard Cohen, and *Coming Through Slaughter* by Michael Ondaatje, each offers its own distinctive outpouring. Such a frustrated chorus of sound or silence allows for transcendence from the human, the physical, and the stereotypical. The cry does violence to normally articulated narrative, enters this gap between silence and sound, and gives utterance to body language.