

Cumming, Peter Ernest. *Life After Man: 'New' Men in Canadian Fiction*. Thesis (MA [English]), University of Guelph. Ann Arbor: ProQuest/UMI, 1992. (Publication No. MM81629)

### Abstract

This thesis is an investigation by a male reader of male authors' constructions of male characters in recent Canadian fiction to see if Eternal "Man" is being challenged by images of "new" men.

Chapter One, "Feminism in Men," explores possible relationships between heterosexual men who oppose patriarchy and the critical practices of feminism, the role of gender in reading and writing, and the relationship between fictional constructions and ideological change.

Chapter Two, "Possibilities for Men after 'Man'," examines "androgyny," Helene Cixous's "the other bisexuality," and "individual difference," for opportunities for men beyond traditional stereotypes.

Chapter Three, "The Emperor Has No/New/No New Clothes: The Man in The Studhorse Man," asks whether the male characters in Robert Kroetsch's novel open up possibilities for men, or reinscribe Man in his own disabling metaphors.

Chapter Four, "Man in the Basement: Ed in Man Descending and My Present Age," analyses Ed as a "Terminal" but also "Transitional" Man of the 1980s.

Chapter Five, "Men Will Have Babies: A Good Father in A Good Baby," contrasts the demonic Truman and the unlikely, but eventual, good father, Toker; Man with men; and Father as Inseminator with Father as Nurturer. (Abstract shortened by UMI.)