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0521650461 - Bachelors, Manhood, and the Novel 1850-1925

Katherine V. Snyder

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BACHELORS, MANHOOD,
AND THE NOVEL
1850–1925

Katherine Snyder's study explores the significance of the bachelor narrator, a prevalent but little-recognized figure in pre-modernist and modernist fiction by male authors, including Hawthorne, James, Conrad, Ford, and Fitzgerald. Snyder demonstrates that bachelors functioned in cultural and literary discourse as threshold figures who, by crossing the shifting, permeable boundaries of bourgeois domesticity, highlighted the limits of conventional masculinity. The very marginality of the figure, Snyder argues, effects a critique of gendered norms of manhood, while the symbolic function of marriage as a means of plot resolution is also made more complex by the presence of the single man. Bachelor figures made, moreover, an ideal narrative device for male authors who themselves occupied vexed cultural positions. By attending to the gendered identities and relations at issue in these narratives, Snyder's study discloses the aesthetic and political underpinnings of the traditional canon of English and American male modernism.

Katherine Snyder is Associate Professor of English at the University of California, Berkeley.

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Contents

<i>Acknowledgments</i>	<i>page</i> vii
<i>Abbreviations</i>	x
Introduction	i
1 Trouble in paradise: bachelors and bourgeois domesticity	18
The trouble with bachelors: an historical overview	20
Baching it: housing and the question of bachelor domesticity	34
Telling dreams: Donald Grant Mitchell’s <i>Reveries of a Bachelor</i>	47
2 Susceptibility and the single man: the constitution of the bachelor invalid	64
Unreliability, ineligibility, invalidism: <i>Wuthering Heights</i> and <i>The Blithedale Romance</i>	67
Seeing sickness, consuming consciousness: <i>The Portrait of a Lady</i>	84
3 An artist and a bachelor: Henry James, mastery, and the life of art	104
Gender, genre, and the airplane of first-person narration	107
“The Lesson of the Master” and other vicissitudes of the literary life	119
Bachelor narration in “The Aspern Papers” and “The Figure in the Carpet”	129
4 A way of looking on: bachelor narration in Joseph Conrad’s <i>Under Western Eyes</i>	141
National loyalty, faithful translation, and betraying narration	144
Double lives, secret sharing, and marriage plotting	148
Masculine affiliation, male feminism, and the bachelor’s “way of looking on”	156
Veiled spectacles, male fetishism, and the standard of the Medusa’s head	161

Cambridge University Press
0521650461 - Bachelors, Manhood, and the Novel 1850-1925
Katherine V. Snyder
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

vi	<i>Contents</i>	
5	The necessary melancholy of bachelors: melancholy, manhood, and modernist narrative	172
	The bachelor narrator and the “good uncle”: <i>Chance</i> and <i>Lord Jim</i>	176
	The pendulum of the other man: <i>The Good Soldier</i> and <i>The Great Gatsby</i>	189
	<i>Afterword</i>	211
	<i>Notes</i>	214
	<i>Bibliography</i>	258
	<i>Index</i>	279

Cambridge University Press
0521650461 - Bachelors, Manhood, and the Novel 1850-1925
Katherine V. Snyder
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

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Cambridge University Press
0521650461 - Bachelors, Manhood, and the Novel 1850-1925
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Frontmatter
[More information](#)

Acknowledgments

ix

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Abbreviations

<i>BR</i>	<i>The Blithedale Romance</i>
<i>C</i>	<i>Chance</i>
<i>CT</i>	<i>The Complete Tales of Henry James</i> , vols. VI, VII, and IX
<i>GG</i>	<i>The Great Gatsby</i>
<i>GS</i>	<i>The Good Soldier</i>
<i>LC1</i>	<i>Henry James: Literary Criticism</i> . Vol. I: <i>Essays on Literature, American Writers, and English Writers</i>
<i>LC2</i>	<i>Henry James: Literary Criticism</i> . Vol. II: <i>French Writers, Other European Writers, and the Prefaces to the New York Edition</i>
<i>LJ</i>	<i>Lord Jim</i>
<i>WH</i>	<i>Wuthering Heights</i>