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978-0-521-89877-5 - Wordsworth, Commodification and Social Concern: The Poetics of Modernity

David Simpson

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## WORDSWORTH, COMMODIFICATION AND SOCIAL CONCERN

This new reading of Wordsworth's poetry by leading critic David Simpson centers on its almost obsessive representation of spectral forms and images of death in life. Wordsworth is reacting, Simpson argues, to the massive changes in the condition of England and the modern world at the turn of the century: mass warfare; the increased scope of machine-driven labor and urbanization; and the expanding power of commodity form in rendering economic and social exchange more and more abstract, more and more distant from human agency and control. Reading Wordsworth alongside Marx and Derrida, Simpson examines the genesis of an attitude of concern which exemplifies the predicament of modern subjectivity as it faces suffering and distress.

DAVID SIMPSON is G. B. Needham Distinguished Professor of English, University of California, Davis.

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*For Margie*

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