

## SEXUAL POLITICS IN THE WORK OF TENNESSEE WILLIAMS

Michael S. D. Hooper reverses the trend of regarding Tennessee Williams as fundamentally a social writer following the publication of plays from both ends of his career – the ‘proletarian’ apprentice years of *Candles to the Sun* and *Not About Nightingales* and the once overlooked final period of, amongst many other plays, *The Red Devil Battery Sign*. Hooper contends that recent criticism has exaggerated the political engagement and egalitarian credentials of a writer whose characters and situations revert to a reactionary politics of the individual dominated by the negotiation of sexual power. Directly, or more often indirectly, Williams’s writing expresses social disaffection before glamorizing the outcast and shelving thoughts of political change. Through detailed analysis of canonical and recently discovered texts, the book sheds new light on Williams’s work, as well as on the cultural and social life of mid-twentieth-century America.

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SEXUAL POLITICS IN THE  
WORK OF TENNESSEE  
WILLIAMS

*Desire Over Protest*

MICHAEL S. D. HOOPER



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