

CREDIT CULTURE

This book offers a new reading of the relationship between money, culture and literature in America in the 1970s. The gold standard ended at the start of this decade, a moment that is routinely treated as a catalyst for the era of postmodern abstraction. This book provides an alternative narrative, one that traces the racialised and gendered histories of credit offered by the intertextual fiction of writers such as E. L. Doctorow, Toni Morrison, Marilyn French, William Gaddis, Thomas Pynchon and Don DeLillo. It argues that money in the 1970s is better read through a narrative of political consolidation than formal rupture, as these novels foreground the closing down, rather than opening up, of serious debates about what American money should be and whom it should serve. These texts and this moment remain important because they allow us to consider the alternative histories of credit that were imaginatively proposed but never realised.

NICKY MARSH is Professor of English at the University of Southampton. She is also the co-editor of *Show Me the Money* (2014).

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*The Politics of Money in the American Novel
of the 1970s*

NICKY MARSH

University of Southampton



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For Peter and Yvonne Marsh.

And all their grandsons.

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