

jonathan safran foer extremely loud and incredibly close

Jonathan Safran Foer's *Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close*: A Deep Dive into Grief and Hope

jonathan safran foer extremely loud and incredibly close is more than just the title of a novel; it's a profound exploration of loss, healing, and the search for meaning in the aftermath of tragedy. Since its publication in 2005, this remarkable work has captivated readers around the world with its unique narrative style and emotionally charged storytelling. If you're curious about what makes Foer's debut novel so compelling, this article will guide you through its themes, characters, and cultural impact, while also offering insights into why it remains relevant today.

Understanding the Storyline of Jonathan Safran Foer Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close

At its core, *extremely loud and incredibly close* centers on Oskar Schell, a precocious and sensitive nine-year-old boy living in New York City. Oskar's life is irrevocably changed when his father dies in the September 11 attacks. Struggling to process his grief, Oskar embarks on a quest to find the lock that matches a mysterious key left behind by his father. This journey takes him across the city, meeting various strangers, and piecing together fragments of his father's life.

What sets this novel apart is how Foer captures the rawness of grief through the eyes of a child. The narrative doesn't just tell a story; it invites readers to experience the confusion, hope, and pain intertwined in Oskar's search for closure. The use of multiple formats—including letters, photographs, and typographical playfulness—adds layers of meaning and emotional depth.

The Role of New York City as a Character

New York City isn't just a backdrop but a living, breathing entity in Foer's novel. The city's chaos, diversity, and history mirror Oskar's emotional turmoil. Each encounter Oskar has in the city reveals a different facet of human resilience and vulnerability. Readers get a sense of the city's heartbeat, which pulses with both sorrow and strength in the wake of 9/11.

Thematic Richness in Jonathan Safran Foer Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close

One of the reasons Jonathan Safran Foer's *Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close* resonates deeply is its exploration of universal themes. Let's unpack some of the novel's most prominent themes and why they matter.

Grief and Healing

The novel offers an intimate look at the grieving process, especially from a child's perspective. Oskar's quest is symbolic of the human desire to find meaning after loss. Through his interactions and adventures, Foer explores how people cope differently with trauma—some by retreating, others by seeking connection.

Communication and Silence

Communication—or the lack thereof—is a recurring motif. Oskar struggles to express his pain verbally, often resorting to inventive methods like his homemade inventions and letters. This highlights how trauma can isolate individuals, making dialogue difficult but also underscoring the importance of empathy and listening.

The Intersection of Memory and History

The book doesn't just focus on personal grief but also reflects on collective memory. The inclusion of historical photographs and narratives from Oskar's grandparents, who survived the Dresden bombings, draws parallels between different kinds of devastation. This enriches the narrative by situating personal loss within larger historical contexts.

Jonathan Safran Foer's Unique Narrative Style

One of the standout features of Jonathan Safran Foer's *Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close* is its inventive narrative approach. Foer employs a blend of traditional prose with unconventional elements that engage the reader both visually and emotionally.

Visual Storytelling

The novel incorporates photographs, drawings, and experimental typography to enhance storytelling. These elements are not mere embellishments but integral parts of the narrative, offering visual metaphors for the themes of loss and hope. For example, pages with single words or images evoke the feeling of silence or absence, mirroring Oskar's emotional state.

Multiple Perspectives

In addition to Oskar's first-person narrative, the novel includes letters and stories from his grandparents. This multiplicity of voices creates a richer, more nuanced portrayal of trauma and survival, illustrating how different generations process pain.

Symbolism and Metaphor

Foer's writing is filled with symbolism—from the mysterious key to Oskar's inventions—which serve as metaphors for the search for meaning and human connection. These literary devices invite readers to dig deeper, making the reading experience both intellectually stimulating and emotionally resonant.

The Cultural Impact of Jonathan Safran Foer Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close

Since its release, *Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close* has left a mark not only in literature but also in popular culture. Its exploration of 9/11's aftermath through a deeply personal lens struck a chord at a time when many were still processing the tragedy.

Critical Reception and Awards

The novel received widespread acclaim for its originality and emotional depth. It was shortlisted for the National Book Award and won several other accolades. Critics praised Foer's ability to tackle a sensitive subject with both tenderness and creativity.

Film Adaptation

In 2011, the story was adapted into a feature film starring Tom Hanks and

Sandra Bullock. While the film received mixed reviews, it helped introduce Foer's story to a broader audience, sparking renewed interest in the novel.

Educational Use

Many educators have incorporated the book into curricula focused on post-9/11 literature, grief counseling, and creative writing. Its accessibility and emotional honesty make it a valuable tool for discussing trauma and resilience with students.

Why Jonathan Safran Foer Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close Continues to Resonate

More than a decade after its publication, jonathan safran foer extremely loud and incredibly close remains relevant for several reasons:

- **Timeless Themes:** Grief, hope, and the search for meaning are universal experiences that transcend specific events.
- **Innovative Storytelling:** The novel's unique format appeals to readers looking for something beyond conventional narratives.
- **Emotional Authenticity:** Foer's ability to capture the complexity of human emotion invites empathy and reflection.
- **Cultural Reflection:** The book serves as a reminder of the personal toll of historical tragedies, fostering understanding and compassion.

Tips for Readers New to the Novel

If you're about to dive into jonathan safran foer extremely loud and incredibly close, here are a few pointers to enhance your reading experience:

1. **Take Your Time:** The novel's structure can be unconventional, so give yourself space to absorb the different formats and voices.
2. **Pay Attention to Visual Elements:** Don't skim over the photographs and drawings—they are integral to the story.
3. **Reflect on the Themes:** Consider how the themes of grief and communication relate to your own experiences or the world around you.

4. **Engage with Supplemental Materials:** Reading interviews with Jonathan Safran Foer or watching the film adaptation can provide additional perspectives.

Exploring Jonathan Safran Foer's *Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close* offers a profound journey into how we navigate loss and find hope amidst the chaos. Whether you're a longtime fan or a curious newcomer, this novel's blend of heart and innovation promises a reading experience that lingers long after the last page is turned.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the main theme of Jonathan Safran Foer's 'Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close'?

The main theme of 'Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close' is dealing with grief and loss, particularly in the aftermath of the September 11 attacks, as experienced by a young boy named Oskar Schell.

Who is the protagonist of 'Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close'?

The protagonist of the novel is Oskar Schell, an imaginative and sensitive nine-year-old boy who embarks on a quest to find the lock that matches a key left by his father, who died in the 9/11 attacks.

How does Jonathan Safran Foer incorporate 9/11 into the story?

Jonathan Safran Foer incorporates 9/11 as a central event that shapes the characters' lives, particularly Oskar's father's death in the World Trade Center, which drives the plot and explores the emotional aftermath of the tragedy.

What narrative techniques does Foer use in 'Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close'?

Foer uses a mix of first-person narration, multiple perspectives, unconventional typography, photographs, and visual elements to create an immersive and emotionally impactful reading experience.

Is 'Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close' based on a

true story?

While 'Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close' is a work of fiction, it draws heavily on real historical events, especially the 9/11 attacks, and explores universal themes of loss and healing.

What role does the key play in the novel?

The key is a symbol of mystery and hope; it is left behind by Oskar's father, and Oskar's quest to find the lock it opens drives the narrative and represents his attempt to connect with his father and make sense of his loss.

How does the novel explore the concept of communication and silence?

The novel explores communication and silence through Oskar's struggle to express his grief, the characters' unspoken emotions, and the use of letters, notes, and visual storytelling to convey feelings that are difficult to verbalize.

Has 'Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close' been adapted into other media?

Yes, 'Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close' was adapted into a feature film in 2011, directed by Stephen Daldry and starring Tom Hanks and Thomas Horn as Oskar, bringing the novel's emotional story to the screen.

Additional Resources

Jonathan Safran Foer's **Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close**: A Deep Dive into Trauma, Memory, and Narrative Innovation

jonathan safran foer extremely loud and incredibly close stands as a poignant exploration of grief and resilience in the aftermath of tragedy. Published in 2005, this debut novel by Foer quickly garnered critical acclaim and sparked widespread discussion for its unique narrative style and emotionally charged content. At its core, the novel delves into the life of Oskar Schell, a young boy grappling with the loss of his father in the 9/11 attacks, and through his journey, Foer intricately weaves themes of trauma, memory, and the complexity of human connections.

Exploring the Narrative Structure and Style

One of the most distinctive features of **Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close** is its experimental narrative form. Jonathan Safran Foer employs a blend of traditional prose, visual elements, and fragmented storytelling to immerse

readers in Oskar's world. The novel incorporates illustrations, photographs, and typographical variations that serve not only as artistic flourishes but also as extensions of the protagonist's emotional state. This multi-modal approach breaks conventional literary boundaries and invites readers to engage with the text on multiple sensory levels.

Foer's use of an unreliable narrator in Oskar adds layers of complexity to the narrative. Oskar's innocence and youthful perspective contrast with the heavy subject matter, creating a tension that underscores the novel's exploration of trauma and healing. Furthermore, the inclusion of parallel narratives—such as the letters from Oskar's grandparents—broadens the thematic scope, connecting personal loss with historical tragedies like the Dresden bombings. This intergenerational storytelling enriches the reader's understanding of grief as a multifaceted and enduring experience.

Thematic Depth: Grief and Coping Mechanisms

At the heart of **Jonathan Safran Foer's Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close** lies an intense examination of grief. Oskar's quest to find the lock that matches a mysterious key left by his father symbolizes the search for meaning amid chaos. The novel portrays grief not as a linear process but as a fragmented, often disorienting experience. Oskar's eccentric behavior—such as his elaborate inventions and his obsessive note-taking—can be seen as coping mechanisms that allow him to navigate a world abruptly altered by loss.

Foer's narrative does not shy away from depicting the rawness of trauma. The novel captures the silence, confusion, and emotional upheaval that follow catastrophic events. This is particularly relevant given the novel's post-9/11 context, where collective trauma shaped the cultural consciousness. By personalizing this collective grief through Oskar's story, Foer provides a lens to understand how individuals, especially children, internalize and respond to such profound devastation.

Characterization and Emotional Resonance

Characters in **Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close** are crafted with emotional complexity, each embodying different facets of loss and survival. Oskar's character is simultaneously vulnerable and resourceful, displaying a childlike curiosity that contrasts with the heavy burden of his father's death. His interactions with other characters—such as his mother, grandmother, and the enigmatic renter in his apartment building—reveal varied responses to trauma and the human need for connection.

Jonathan Safran Foer's portrayal of secondary characters supports the novel's broader exploration of communication and alienation. For instance, Oskar's grandparents communicate through letters that reveal painful history and suppressed emotions. These exchanges add historical depth and highlight how

silence and unspoken grief can shape relationships. The novel's nuanced character development contributes to its emotional resonance, inviting readers into a deeply personal yet universally relatable narrative.

Critical Reception and Cultural Impact

Upon release, *Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close* received a mix of praise and criticism. Many reviewers lauded Foer's innovative narrative techniques and the novel's heartfelt exploration of trauma. The book's ability to tackle the aftermath of 9/11 through a child's perspective was seen as both brave and necessary, offering a fresh approach to a subject that dominated early 21st-century literature.

However, some critics pointed to the novel's stylistic experimentation as potentially alienating, arguing that the visual elements and fragmented prose occasionally detracted from the storytelling. Others felt the emotional intensity verged on sentimentality. Despite this, the novel secured a strong readership and was shortlisted for the National Book Award, affirming its significance in contemporary American literature.

The cultural resonance of *Jonathan Safran Foer's Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close* extends beyond literary circles. The novel was adapted into a 2011 film directed by Stephen Daldry, starring Tom Hanks and Thomas Horn. While the film received mixed reviews, it helped bring Foer's story to a wider audience and underscored the enduring relevance of the novel's themes.

Comparisons with Related Works

In the landscape of post-9/11 literature, Foer's novel can be compared to works like Don DeLillo's *Falling Man* and Art Spiegelman's *In the Shadow of No Towers*. While DeLillo's approach is more detached and adult-centered, Foer's focus on a child protagonist lends a unique perspective on trauma and memory. Similarly, Spiegelman's graphic memoir parallels Foer's use of visual storytelling, though it is autobiographical rather than fictional.

Additionally, Foer's narrative shares thematic links with his own subsequent novels, such as *Everything Is Illuminated*, which also explore memory, loss, and the search for identity through unconventional storytelling techniques. These comparisons help situate *Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close* within a broader literary context emphasizing innovative narrative forms to address historical trauma.

Key Features and Literary Techniques

- **Multimodal storytelling:** Integration of images, typography, and unconventional formatting to enhance narrative depth.
- **Multiple perspectives:** Use of various narrative voices, including Oskar, his grandparents, and other supporting characters.
- **Symbolism:** The key and lock motif representing the search for closure and understanding.
- **Intertextuality:** References to historical events and literary works that enrich thematic complexity.
- **Emotional layering:** Exploration of grief on personal, familial, and societal levels.

These features contribute to the novel's distinctiveness and its ability to engage readers emotionally and intellectually.

Pros and Cons of Foer's Approach

1. Pros:

- Innovative narrative style that breaks traditional storytelling molds.
- Emotional authenticity in portraying grief and trauma.
- Rich thematic layering connecting personal and historical tragedies.
- Accessibility to a broad audience through a child protagonist.

2. Cons:

- Stylistic experimentation may distract some readers from the plot.
- Occasional sentimentality that might undermine the novel's gravitas.
- Fragmented narrative can challenge readers seeking a linear story.

While these points highlight varied reader responses, they also underscore the novel's ambition and complexity.

As a work that intertwines grief with hope, **Jonathan Safran Foer Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close** remains a significant contribution to contemporary literature. Foer's ability to marry form and content creates a moving portrait of human resilience in the face of overwhelming loss. Through Oskar's journey, readers are invited to reflect on the multifaceted nature of trauma and the enduring quest for understanding in an uncertain world.

Jonathan Safran Foer Extremely Loud And Incredibly Close

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jonathan safran foer extremely loud and incredibly close: *Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close* Jonathan Safran Foer, 2006-05-25 THE INTERNATIONAL BESTSELLER ADAPTED INTO A FEATURE FILM WITH TOM HANKS From the critically acclaimed author of *Here I Am*, *Everything is Illuminated* and *We are the Weather* - a heartrending and unforgettable novel set in the aftermath of the 9/11 'Utterly engaging, hugely involving, tragic, funny and intensely moving... A heartbreaker' *Spectator* 'The most incredible fictional nine-year-old ever created... a funny, heart-rending portrayal of a child coping with disaster. It will have you biting back the tears' *Glamour* 'Pulsates with dazzling ideas' *Times Literary Supplement* 'It's a miracle... So impeccably imagined, so courageously executed, so everlastingly moving' *Baltimore Sun* 'Jonathan Safran Foer is a writer of considerable brilliance' *Observer* In a vase in a closet, a couple of years after his father died in 9/11, nine-year-old Oskar discovers a key... The key belonged to his father, he's sure of that. But which of New York's 162 million locks does it open? So begins a quest that takes Oskar - inventor, letter-writer and amateur detective - across New York's five boroughs and into the jumbled lives of friends, relatives and complete strangers. He gets heavy boots, he gives himself little bruises and he inches ever nearer to the heart of a family mystery that stretches back fifty years. But will it take him any closer to, or even further from, his lost father?

jonathan safran foer extremely loud and incredibly close: *Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close* Jonathan Safran Foer, 2005 Nine-year-old Oskar Schell is a precocious Francophile who idolizes Stephen Hawking and plays the tambourine extremely well. He's also a boy struggling to come to terms with his father's death in the World Trade Center attacks. As he searches New York City for the lock that fits a mysterious key he left behind, Oskar discovers much more than he could have imagined.

jonathan safran foer extremely loud and incredibly close: Extremely Loud And Incredibly Close Jonathan Safran Foer, 2013-09-03 A funny, uplifting novel about a boy's journey through New York in the aftermath of September 11th from one of today's most celebrated writers. Nine-year-old Oskar Schell embarks on an urgent, secret mission that will take him through the five boroughs of New York. His goal is to find the lock that matches a mysterious key that belonged to his father, who died in the World Trade Center on the morning of September 11. This seemingly impossible task will bring Oskar into contact with survivors of all sorts of an exhilarating, affecting, often hilarious, and ultimately healing journey. With humor, tenderness, and awe, Jonathan Safran

Foer confronts the traumas of our country's difficult history.

jonathan safran foer extremely loud and incredibly close: *Everything Is Illuminated* Jonathan Safran Foer, 2015 Hilarious, energetic, and profoundly touching, a debut novel follows a young writer as he travels to the farmlands of eastern Europe, where he embarks on a quest to find Augustine, the woman who saved his grandfather from the Nazis, and, guided by his young Ukrainian translator, he discovers an unexpected past that will resonate far into the future. Excerpt in The New Yorker.

jonathan safran foer extremely loud and incredibly close: *Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close* by Jonathan Safran Foer Adam Ford, 2007

jonathan safran foer extremely loud and incredibly close: NOVELS FOR STUDENTS CENGAGE LEARNING. GALE, 2016

jonathan safran foer extremely loud and incredibly close: *A Study Guide for Jonathan Safran Foer's "Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close"* Gale, Cengage Learning, 2016-06-29 A Study Guide for Jonathan Safran Foer's *Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close*, excerpted from Gale's acclaimed *Novels for Students*. This concise study guide includes plot summary; character analysis; author biography; study questions; historical context; suggestions for further reading; and much more. For any literature project, trust *Novels for Students* for all of your research needs.

jonathan safran foer extremely loud and incredibly close: Trauma in Jonathan Safran Foer's "Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close" Michelle Klein, 2016-08-08 Seminar paper from the year 2015 in the subject English Language and Literature Studies - Literature, grade: 2,0, University of Koblenz-Landau (Anglistik), course: 20th Century Novels, language: English, abstract: Trauma seems to me being an essential topic to discuss in school as everybody sooner or later has to deal with loss or already dealt with it in the past. As every student can identify with this potential challenge, it is important for them to get to know different ways of dealing with trauma. Foer's story even reveals that coping with trauma is able to bring people from different races and ages together. Even if people's trauma is caused by different events there will be a connection between these people. Moreover, it would be possible to teach this topic interdisciplinary and interdisciplinary in ethics or religious education classes. As everyone could be affected by trauma I determined this topic for my planned lesson. The reason for choosing the subtopics namely 'inventing' and 'heavy boots' referring to Oskar; Grandfather Schell's 'aphasia' and 'the doorknobs' and finally, 'suppressing' and 'the feeling of being needed' with regard to Grandmother Schell reveal concreteness for the main topic. I decided to teach the topic by group work to facilitate the exchange of experiences without the danger to be exposed in front of the class. I thought this is the best way, as the students can talk about how they perceived the character and his or her ability to deal with the trauma they have gone through. The team work is followed by a presentation and discussion of this work to ensure all students have reached the same level of knowledge. Moreover, it is important have the ability to emphasise with this character and change their perspectives or contribute their own experiences with loss to explain the others why somebody could show such behaviour. I will analyse the topic by a characterisation following by a psychoanalytic approach. For one it is important to get to know why people are behaving differently after experiencing loss and second, it is illuminating for the students to become aware that trauma can be responsible for the person concerned being left with an altered personality. The lesson I have planned relates to both, characterisation and psychoanalytic approaches. After the lesson the students should have general knowledge about trauma and its effects. Furthermore, it should be clear that trauma can only be overcome by going through two phases, which build up upon each other.

jonathan safran foer extremely loud and incredibly close: Encyclopedia of Contemporary Writers and Their Work Geoff Hamilton, Brian Jones, 2015-04-22 Presents an alphabetical reference guide detailing the lives and works of authors associated with the English-language fiction of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries.

jonathan safran foer extremely loud and incredibly close: Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close (Study Guide) BookCaps Study Guides Staff, 2011 The perfect companion to

Jonathan Safran Foer's *Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close*, this study guide contains a chapter by chapter analysis of the book, a summary of the plot, and a guide to major characters and themes. BookCap Study Guides do not contain text from the actual book, and are not meant to be purchased as alternatives to reading the book. We all need refreshers every now and then. Whether you are a student trying to cram for that big final, or someone just trying to understand a book more, BookCaps can help. We are a small, but growing company, and are adding titles every month.

jonathan safran foer extremely loud and incredibly close: A Case Study Of Oskar Schell
In J. S. Foer's Novel "Extremely Loud And Incredibly Close" Natalia Gresty, 2016-08-25
Bachelor Thesis from the year 2016 in the subject Didactics for the subject English - Literature, Works, University of Presov (British and American Studies), language: English, abstract: This bachelor thesis analyses Oskar Schell, the fictional character from Jonathan Safran Foer's novel *Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close*. The chosen technique is called „a case study“ since it examines the case of Oskar Schell with an emphasis on his mental state. The thesis is divided into two main parts; theoretical and practical. The theory briefly deals with the author and his literary purpose, explains the plot, the basic theories of three mental disorders – posttraumatic stress disorder, autism and clinical depression. The practical part demonstrates symptoms of these illnesses in Oskar's passages and in the end provides a possible diagnosis.

jonathan safran foer extremely loud and incredibly close: Mapping Generations of Traumatic Memory in American Narratives Dana Mihăilescu, Roxana Oltean, Mihaela Precup, 2014-06-12 This volume collects work by several European, North American, and Australian academics who are interested in examining the performance and transmission of post-traumatic memory in the contemporary United States. The contributors depart from the interpretation of trauma as a unique exceptional event that shatters all systems of representation, as seen in the writing of early trauma theorists like Cathy Caruth, Shoshana Felman, and Dominick LaCapra. Rather, the chapters in this collection are in conversation with more recent readings of trauma such as Michael Rothberg's "multidirectional memory" (2009), the role of mediation and remediation in the dynamics of cultural memory (Astrid Erll, 2012; Aleida Assman, 2011), and Stef Craps' focus on "postcolonial witnessing" and its cross-cultural dimension (2013). The corpus of post-traumatic narratives under discussion includes fiction, diaries, memoirs, films, visual narratives, and oral testimonies. A complicated dialogue between various and sometimes conflicting narratives is thus generated and examined along four main lines in this volume: trauma in the context of "multidirectional memory"; the representation of trauma in autobiographical texts; the dynamic of public forms of national commemoration; and the problematic instantiation of 9/11 as a traumatic landmark.

jonathan safran foer extremely loud and incredibly close: Is this a Culture of Trauma? An Interdisciplinary Perspective Jessica Aliaga Lavrijsen, Michael Bick, 2019-01-04 This volume was first published by Inter-Disciplinary Press in 2013. The 20th century has been characterised by an unprecedented violence that seems to have left an imprint in contemporary societies: from the two World Wars or the terrorist attack of 9/11 to natural catastrophes or sexual abuse. All of these terrible experiences have been collected, represented, and communicated by many different people, especially in the last few decades, as seen in the high number of books and films dealing with traumatic experiences. As a result, an interdisciplinary 'trauma studies' field has emerged. At the 2nd Global Conference 'Trauma: Theory and Practice', an interdisciplinary conference hosted in Prague in the spring of 2012, academics and professionals met to explore and debate issues surrounding the experience of individual and collective traumas, their representations in art, and some theoretical approaches to trauma. This book is a collection of the papers presented at the conference, a snapshot of the current work in the field of trauma studies.

jonathan safran foer extremely loud and incredibly close: 9/11: Culture, Catastrophe and the Critique of Singularity Diana Gonçalves, 2016-10-24 Even though much has been said and written about 9/11, the work developed on this subject has mostly explored it as an unparalleled event, a turning point in history. This book wishes to look instead at how disruptive events promote a

network of associations and how people resort to comparison as a means to make sense of the unknown, i.e. to comprehend what seems incomprehensible. In order to effectively discuss the complexity of 9/11, this book articulates different fields of knowledge and perspectives such as visual culture, media studies, performance studies, critical theory, memory studies and literary studies to shed some light on 9/11 and analyze how the event has impacted on American social and cultural fabric and how the American society has come to terms with such a devastating event. A more in-depth study of Don DeLillo's *Falling Man* and Jonathan Safran Foer's *Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close* draws attention to the cultural construction of catastrophe and the plethora of cultural products 9/11 has inspired. It demonstrates how the event has been integrated into American culture and exemplifies what makes up the 9/11 imaginary.

jonathan safran foer extremely loud and incredibly close: The Impossible Jew Benjamin Schreier, 2015-06-12 He destroys in order to create. In a sweeping critique of the field, Benjamin Schreier resituates Jewish Studies in order to make room for a critical study of identity and identification. Displacing the assumption that Jewish Studies is necessarily the study of Jews, this book aims to break down the walls of the academic ghetto in which the study of Jewish American literature often seems to be contained: alienated from fields like comparative ethnicity studies, American studies, and multicultural studies; suffering from the unwillingness of Jewish Studies to accept critical literary studies as a legitimate part of its project; and so often refusing itself to engage in self-critique. *The Impossible Jew* interrogates how the concept of identity is critically put to work by identity-based literary study. Through readings of key authors from across the canon of Jewish American literature and culture—including Abraham Cahan, the New York Intellectuals, Philip Roth, and Jonathan Safran Foer—Benjamin Schreier shows how texts resist the historicist expectation that self-evident Jewish populations are represented in and recoverable from them. Through ornate, scabrous, funny polemics, Schreier draws the lines of relation between Jewish American literary study and American studies, multiethnic studies, critical theory, and Jewish Studies formations. He maintains that a Jewish Studies beyond ethnicity is essential for a viable future of Jewish literary study.

jonathan safran foer extremely loud and incredibly close: Handbook of the American Novel of the Twentieth and Twenty-First Centuries Timo Müller, 2017-01-11 Increasing specialization within the discipline of English and American Studies has shifted the focus of scholarly discussion toward theoretical reflection and cultural contexts. These developments have benefitted the discipline in more ways than one, but they have also resulted in a certain neglect of close reading. As a result, students and researchers interested in such material are forced to turn to scholarship from the 1960s and 1970s, much of which relies on dated methodological and ideological presuppositions. The handbook aims to fill this gap by providing new readings of texts that figure prominently in the literature classroom and in scholarly debate – from James's *The Ambassadors* to McCarthy's *The Road*. These readings do not revert naively to a time "before theory." Instead, they distil the insights of literary and cultural theory into concise introductions to the historical background, the themes, the formal strategies, and the reception of influential literary texts, and they do so in a jargon-free language accessible to readers on all levels of qualification.

jonathan safran foer extremely loud and incredibly close: A Poetics of Trauma after 9/11 Katharina Donn, 2016-10-04 The 9/11 attacks brought large-scale violence into the 21st century with force and have come to epitomize the entanglement of intimate vulnerability and virtual spectacle that is typical of the globalized present. This book works at the intersection of trauma studies, affect theory, and literary studies to offer radically new interpretive frames for interrogating the challenges inherent in representing the initial moments of the terrorist encounter. Beyond the paradigm of traumatic unspeakability, post-9/11 texts expose the materiality of the human body in its universal vulnerability. The intersubjective empathy this engenders is politically subversive, as it undermines the discourse of historical singularity and exceptionalism by establishing a global network of reference and dialogue. Innovative theoretical interconnections between clinical pathology, concepts of cultural trauma, and political aesthetics lay the foundations for exploring

formally and geographically diverse texts. Close readings of works by Jonathan Safran Foer, Art Spiegelman, Don DeLillo, and William Gibson map the relationship between representations of 9/11 and complex aspects of trauma theory. This detailed approach makes a case for revisiting trauma theory and bringing its Freudian origins into the digitized present. It showcases trauma as a physical and psychological wound as well as an experience that is simultaneously pre-discursive and inhibited by the virtuality of the present-day real. Exploring how contemporary trauma studies can take into account the digitization and virtuality of present-day realities, this book is a key intervention in establishing a contemporary ethics of witnessing terror.

jonathan safran foer extremely loud and incredibly close: *Memory, Intermediality, and Literature* Sara Tanderup Linkis, 2019-04-16 If readers of Sara Tanderup Linkis' *Something to hold on to* ... open the book in the expectation of entering a niche of literature and literary studies, they will leave it after having encountered a new highway in literature. Here, the traditional theme of memory and the most recent use of digital media merge into a new understanding of the role of the book in the contemporary media landscape and of vicissitudes of memorial processes literature, which also offers a broader perspective on literature in human history. Spurred by Sara Tanderup Linkis' sharp eye the readings of texts are lucid, engaging and offers so many ideas that teachers will renew their curricula, and readers will open the internet for more or rush to the library. — Svend Erik Larsen, professor emeritus *Memory, Intermediality, and Literature* investigates how selected literary works use intermedial strategies to represent and perform cultural memory. Drawing on the theoretical perspectives of cultural memory studies, this engaging, reader-friendly monograph examines new materialism and intermediality studies, analyzing works by Alexander Kluge, W.G. Sebald, Jonathan Safran Foer, Anne Carson, Mette Hegnhøj, William Joyce, J.J. Abrams and Doug Dorst. The works emerge out of different traditions and genres, ranging from neo-avant-garde montages through photo-novels and book objects to apps and children's stories. In this new monograph, Sara Tanderup Linkis presents an interdisciplinary and comparative approach, reading the works together, across genres and decades, and combining the perspectives of memory studies and materialist and media-oriented analysis. This approach makes it possible to argue that the works not only use intermedial strategies to represent memory, but also to remember literature, reflecting on the changing status and function of literature as a mediator of cultural memory in the age of new media. Thus, the works may be read as reactions to modern media culture, suggesting the ways in which literature and memory are affected by new media and technologies – photography and television as well as iPads and social media.

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