



# **Richard Matheson's Monsters: Gender in the Stories, Scripts, Novels, and Twilight Zone Episodes (Studies in Supernatural Literature)**

*June M. Pulliam, Anthony J. Fonseca*

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Richard Matheson was one of the leading writers of science fiction, fantasy, and horror in the twentieth century. Matheson's most famous early works, the novels *I Am Legend* (1954) and *The Shrinking Man* (1956), both depict traditionally masculine figures thrust into extraordinary situations. Other thought-provoking novels, including *Hell House* (1971), *Bid Time Return* (1975), and *What Dreams May Come* (1978)—as well as short stories and screenplays—convey the ambiguous status of masculinity: how men should behave vis-à-vis women and what role they should occupy in the family dynamic and in society at large.

In *Richard Matheson's Monsters: Gender in the Stories, Scripts, Novels and Twilight Zone Episodes*, June M. Pulliam and Anthony J. Fonseca examine how this groundbreaking author's writings shed light on society's ever-shifting attitudes on masculinity and domesticity. In this first full-length critical study of Matheson's entire literary output, the authors discuss how *I Am Legend*, *The Shrinking Man*, and other works question traditional male roles. The authors examine how Matheson's scripts for *The Twilight Zone* represented changing expectations in male behavior with the onset of the sexual and feminist revolutions, industrialization and globalization, and other issues.

In a society where gender roles are questioned every day, Matheson's work is more relevant than ever. *Richard Matheson's Monsters* will be of interest to scholars of literature, film, and television, as well those interested in gender and masculinity studies.

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