

[Free] Coming to Terms: The Rhetoric of Narrative in Fiction and Film

Coming to Terms: The Rhetoric of Narrative in Fiction and Film

Seymour Chatman

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Seymour Chatman : Coming to Terms: The Rhetoric of Narrative in Fiction and Film before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Coming to Terms: The Rhetoric of Narrative in Fiction and Film:

8 of 9 people found the following review helpful. Narrative models applied to works in time.By frumiousbChatman walks the reader through different narrative models, looking for one which applies to both novels and cinema. He builds on the work of scholars such as Bordwell and Booth to reach his conclusions.The book is broken into three rough sections. The first four chapters consider the relationship of narrative to other kinds of discourse. For instance, he explores how a text-type such as description fits into the narrative framework.The second section of the book addresses narrative formulations internal to either cinema or novels. I found this personally the most useful section. I particularly liked the distinction that he made between an unreliable narrator and a fallable filter.Finally, in the last chapter, Chatman moves towards synthesis and builds his conclusions by attempting to redefine the Booth notion of a rhetoric of fiction.I found as a reader that I was well-enough versed with film theory to follow most of the book. I have not read as completely in Narratology (rhetoric) as I should have to really get the most out of it. While I understand that he would rather have had people rent the films than print stills, it was a little frustrating to find references to long out-of-print advertisements and not be able to visualize what was meant.Chatman is a Emeritus Professor of Rhetoric at UC Berkeley.4 of 5 people found the following review helpful. point of viewBy Mirjam EladhariTo me the most relevant contribution Chatman makes here is the differentiation of Genette's term focalization to differ between the

narrator and the character. The narrator would give a 'slant', and the character a 'filter'. He also reasons about how texttypes can be used 'in service' of each other, makes a defence of the concept of 'implied author' and goes more deeply into cinematic narration than he did in his last book. A good read.

"Coming to Terms is clearly a major effort in the ongoing project of expanding and specifying our knowledge of narrative and the terms and concepts of our narratological theory and criticism." Harold F. Moshier, Jr., Northern Illinois University, *Style*, Vol. 26, No. 3, Fall 1992 "A stimulating book, not least because Chatman masters the difficult art of writing theory in a lucid and interesting manner. . . . Coming to Terms offers a number of original insights and suggestions, and where it does not do so, it provides a clear and useful exposition of the relevant ideas and arguments put forward by other scholars. For those interested in narrative theory or in the relation between fiction and film, coming to terms with this book will be a worthwhile endeavor." Burkhard Niederhoff, *Amerikastudien*, Vol. 39, 1994