

# Critical Pen

## Introduction

In the hallowed halls of literature, a fierce battle rages—a battle for the soul of the written word. On one side stand the defenders of tradition, those who cling to the old ways of storytelling and believe in the power of plot, character, and meaning. On the other side stand the avant-garde, those who embrace experimentation and innovation, who believe that literature is a realm of endless possibility and that the old rules no longer apply.

In this tumultuous literary landscape, Critical Pen stands as a clarion call, a rallying cry for those who believe that literature is in peril. With wit, passion, and erudition, Pasquale De Marco takes aim at the forces that are destroying literature from within—the cult of the author, the tyranny of the MFA, the death of plot,

the triumph of style over substance, and the crisis of literary criticism.

Pasquale De Marco argues that contemporary literature has lost its way, that it has become self-indulgent, navel-gazing, and irrelevant. He laments the decline of the novel, the rise of identity politics, and the tyranny of political correctness. He calls for a return to the basics, to the timeless principles of good storytelling.

But Pasquale De Marco is not merely a critic; he is also a visionary. He offers a bold and provocative vision for the future of literature, a vision that embraces both tradition and innovation. He believes that literature can be both entertaining and challenging, both accessible and profound. He believes that literature has the power to change the world, to make us better people, and to help us understand our place in the universe.

Pasquale De Marco is a fearless and independent voice in the literary world, a voice that is not afraid to speak truth to power. He is a defender of free speech, a champion of artistic freedom, and a believer in the transformative power of literature. *Critical Pen* is a must-read for anyone who cares about the future of literature. It is a book that will provoke, inspire, and challenge you to think about literature in a whole new way.

## Book Description

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In *Critical Pen*, Pasquale De Marco takes aim at the forces that are destroying literature from within—the cult of the author, the tyranny of the MFA, the death of plot, the triumph of style over substance, and the crisis of literary criticism. He argues that contemporary literature has lost its way, that it has become self-indulgent, navel-gazing, and irrelevant. He calls for a return to the basics, to the timeless principles of good storytelling.

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tradition and innovation. He believes that literature can be both entertaining and challenging, both accessible and profound. He believes that literature has the power to change the world, to make us better people, and to help us understand our place in the universe.

Critical Pen is a must-read for anyone who cares about the future of literature. It is a book that will provoke, inspire, and challenge you to think about literature in a whole new way.

In Critical Pen, Pasquale De Marco tackles some of the most pressing issues facing literature today, including:

- The decline of the novel
- The rise of identity politics
- The tyranny of political correctness
- The death of plot
- The triumph of style over substance
- The crisis of literary criticism

Pasquale De Marco does not shy away from controversy. He is willing to challenge the status quo and to speak his mind, even if it means ruffling a few feathers. But he is also fair and balanced, and he always gives his opponents a chance to state their case.

Critical Pen is a timely and important book. It is a book that will spark a much-needed debate about the future of literature. It is a book that will make you think, and it is a book that will stay with you long after you finish reading it.

# Chapter 1: The State of Contemporary Literature

## The Decline of the Novel

The novel, once the undisputed king of literature, is in decline. In the past, the novel was the go-to form for storytelling, the medium through which the great writers of the world told their most ambitious and complex stories. But in recent years, the novel has been losing ground to other forms of storytelling, such as short stories, essays, and memoirs.

There are a number of reasons for the decline of the novel. One reason is the rise of the internet and social media. In the past, people had to read novels to get their stories. But now, there are a plethora of other ways to get stories, such as watching movies, TV shows, and videos. These other forms of storytelling are often more immediate and easier to digest than novels,

which can make them more appealing to people who are short on time or attention.

Another reason for the decline of the novel is the changing tastes of readers. In the past, readers were more likely to be interested in stories that were complex and challenging. But in recent years, readers have become more interested in stories that are simple and easy to read. This is due in part to the rise of the internet and social media, which have made people more accustomed to consuming information in short, digestible chunks.

Whatever the reasons, the decline of the novel is a serious problem. The novel is a unique and powerful form of storytelling, and its loss would be a great blow to literature.

### **The Importance of the Novel**

The novel is important for a number of reasons. First, the novel is a powerful tool for storytelling. It allows



writers to tell complex and ambitious stories that would be impossible to tell in other forms of storytelling. Second, the novel is a valuable form of cultural expression. It allows writers to explore the human condition and to comment on the world around them. Third, the novel is an important educational tool. It can help readers to develop their critical thinking skills and to understand different cultures and perspectives.

### **The Future of the Novel**

The future of the novel is uncertain. Some people believe that the novel is dead, while others believe that it will continue to thrive. Only time will tell what the future holds for the novel. However, one thing is for sure: the novel is a resilient form of storytelling, and it is likely to continue to play an important role in literature for many years to come.

# Chapter 1: The State of Contemporary Literature

## The Rise of Identity Politics

Contemporary literature is in the midst of a crisis. Sales are declining, and readers are increasingly turning to other forms of entertainment. One of the reasons for this decline is the rise of identity politics.

Identity politics is a political approach wherein people of a particular gender, religion, race, social background, social class, environmental, or other identifying factors, develop political agendas that are based upon these identities.

Identity politics has become a major force in contemporary literature, and it has had a number of negative consequences. First, it has led to a narrowing of the literary canon. Writers who do not belong to the right identity groups are often excluded from major literary prizes and publications. This has created a

10

situation where the voices of marginalized groups are not being heard.

Second, identity politics has led to a decline in literary quality. Writers who are more concerned with promoting their political agendas than with telling good stories are often producing work that is dull, didactic, and unoriginal.

Third, identity politics has created a climate of fear and intimidation in the literary world. Writers who dare to criticize identity politics are often attacked by activists who accuse them of being racist, sexist, homophobic, or transphobic. This has led to a situation where many writers are afraid to speak their minds.

The rise of identity politics is a serious threat to contemporary literature. It is leading to a narrowing of the literary canon, a decline in literary quality, and a climate of fear and intimidation. If we want to save contemporary literature, we need to reject identity

politics and return to the timeless principles of good storytelling.

# Chapter 1: The State of Contemporary Literature

## The Tyranny of Political Correctness

Political correctness has become a scourge on contemporary literature. It has stifled creativity, homogenized thought, and created a climate of fear in which writers are afraid to express their true opinions.

One of the most insidious aspects of political correctness is its vagueness. What is considered politically correct changes constantly, and it is often difficult to know what one can and cannot say. This has led to a situation in which writers are constantly second-guessing themselves, afraid of offending someone or being labeled a bigot.

The result has been a decline in the quality of literature. Writers are no longer willing to take risks or explore controversial topics, for fear of being ostracized. This has led to a bland, inoffensive

literature that is more concerned with being politically correct than with being truthful or entertaining.

Political correctness has also had a chilling effect on free speech. Writers are now afraid to express their true opinions, for fear of being attacked by the politically correct mob. This has created a climate of fear and self-censorship that is inimical to creativity.

The tyranny of political correctness is a serious threat to the future of literature. It is stifling creativity, homogenizing thought, and creating a climate of fear. If we want to save literature, we need to reject political correctness and embrace free speech.

**This extract presents the opening three sections of the first chapter.**

**Discover the complete 10 chapters and 50 sections by purchasing the book, now available in various formats.**

## Table of Contents

### **Chapter 1: The State of Contemporary Literature \***

The Decline of the Novel \* The Rise of Identity Politics \*  
The Tyranny of Political Correctness \* The Death of  
Literary Criticism \* The Future of Literature

### **Chapter 2: The Cult of the Author \* The Author as**

Celebrity \* The Author as Brand \* The Author as God \*  
The Author's Responsibility \* The Author's Legacy

### **Chapter 3: The Tyranny of the MFA \* The MFA as**

Gatekeeper \* The MFA as Indoctrination Center \* The  
MFA as Factory \* The MFA as Scam \* The MFA as Killer  
of Creativity

### **Chapter 4: The Death of Plot \* The Triumph of**

Character \* The Cult of Interiority \* The Fragmentation  
of Narrative \* The End of Suspense \* The Future of  
Storytelling

### **Chapter 5: The Triumph of Style over Substance \***

The Beauty of Bad Writing \* The Cult of Obscurity \* The



Death of Meaning \* The Rise of Nihilism \* The Future of Language

**Chapter 6: The Crisis of Literary Criticism** \* The Death of the Common Reader \* The Rise of the Academic Critic \* The Tyranny of Theory \* The Future of Criticism \* The Critic as Creator

**Chapter 7: The Future of Reading** \* The Rise of E-books \* The Death of Print \* The Future of Libraries \* The Role of Reading in the Digital Age \* The Future of Literary Culture

**Chapter 8: The Death of the Book** \* The Rise of the Internet \* The Fragmentation of Attention \* The Tyranny of Distraction \* The Future of the Written Word \* The End of Civilization

**Chapter 9: The Future of Literature** \* The Rise of Artificial Intelligence \* The Death of Human Creativity \* The Future of the Imagination \* The End of Meaning \* The Ultimate Question

**Chapter 10: The Last Word** \* The Future of the Book \*  
The Future of Reading \* The Future of Literature \* The  
Future of Civilization \* The Ultimate Answer

**This extract presents the opening three sections of the first chapter.**

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