

Out of the Blue: September 11 and the Novel

Kristiaan Versluys



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Writers have represented 9/11 and its aftermath with varying degrees of success. In *Out of the Blue*, Kristiaan Versluys focuses on novels that move beyond patriotic clichés and cheap sensationalism and provide new insights into the emotional and ethical impact of these traumatic events& mdash;and what it means to depict them. Versluys focuses on Don DeLillo's *Falling Man*, Art Spiegelman's *In the Shadow of No Towers*, Jonathan Safran Foer's *Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close*, Frédéric Beigbeder's *Windows on the World*, and John Updike's *Terrorist*. He scrutinizes how these writers affirm the humanity of the disoriented individual, as opposed to the cocksure killer or politician, and retranslate hesitation, stuttering, or stammering into a precarious act of defiance. Versluys also discusses works by Ian McEwan, Anita Shreve, Martin Amis, and Michael Cunningham, arguing for the novel's distinct power in rendering the devastation of 9/11.

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