



Imagining Monsters: Miscreations of the Self in Eighteenth-Century England

By Dennis Todd

Download now

Read Online ➔

Imagining Monsters: Miscreations of the Self in Eighteenth-Century England By Dennis Todd

In 1726, an illiterate woman from Surrey named Mary Toft announced that she had given birth to seventeen rabbits. Deceiving respected physicians and citizens alike, she created a hoax that held England spellbound for months. In *Imagining Monsters*, Dennis Todd tells the story of this bizarre incident and shows how it illuminates eighteenth-century beliefs about the power of imagination and the problems of personal identity.

Mary Toft's outrageous claim was accepted because of a common belief that the imagination of a pregnant woman could deform her fetus, creating a monster within her. Drawing on largely unexamined material from medicine, embryology, philosophy, and popular "monster" exhibitions, Todd shows that such ideas about monstrous births expressed a fear central to scientific, literary, and philosophical thinking: that the imagination could transgress the barrier between mind and body.

In his analysis of the Toft case, Todd exposes deep anxieties about the threat this transgressive imagination posed to the idea of the self as stable, coherent, and autonomous. Major works of Pope and Swift reveal that they, too, were concerned with these issues, and *Imagining Monsters* provides detailed discussions of *Gulliver's Travels* and *The Dunciad* illustrating how these writers used images of monstrosity to explore the problematic nature of human identity. It also includes a provocative analysis of Pope's later work that takes into account his physical deformity and his need to defend himself in a society that linked a deformed body with a deformed character.

↓ [Download Imagining Monsters: Miscreations of the Self in Ei ...pdf](#)

📖 [Read Online Imagining Monsters: Miscreations of the Self in ...pdf](#)

Imagining Monsters: Miscreations of the Self in Eighteenth-Century England

By Dennis Todd

Imagining Monsters: Miscreations of the Self in Eighteenth-Century England By Dennis Todd

In 1726, an illiterate woman from Surrey named Mary Toft announced that she had given birth to seventeen rabbits. Deceiving respected physicians and citizens alike, she created a hoax that held England spellbound for months. In *Imagining Monsters*, Dennis Todd tells the story of this bizarre incident and shows how it illuminates eighteenth-century beliefs about the power of imagination and the problems of personal identity.

Mary Toft's outrageous claim was accepted because of a common belief that the imagination of a pregnant woman could deform her fetus, creating a monster within her. Drawing on largely unexamined material from medicine, embryology, philosophy, and popular "monster" exhibitions, Todd shows that such ideas about monstrous births expressed a fear central to scientific, literary, and philosophical thinking: that the imagination could transgress the barrier between mind and body.

In his analysis of the Toft case, Todd exposes deep anxieties about the threat this transgressive imagination posed to the idea of the self as stable, coherent, and autonomous. Major works of Pope and Swift reveal that they, too, were concerned with these issues, and *Imagining Monsters* provides detailed discussions of *Gulliver's Travels* and *The Dunciad* illustrating how these writers used images of monstrosity to explore the problematic nature of human identity. It also includes a provocative analysis of Pope's later work that takes into account his physical deformity and his need to defend himself in a society that linked a deformed body with a deformed character.

Imagining Monsters: Miscreations of the Self in Eighteenth-Century England By Dennis Todd Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #2732836 in Books
- Published on: 1995-11-15
- Released on: 1995-11-15
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.00" h x 1.60" w x 6.00" l, 1.07 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 357 pages

 [Download Imagining Monsters: Miscreations of the Self in Ei ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Imagining Monsters: Miscreations of the Self in ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online Imagining Monsters: Miscreations of the Self in Eighteenth-Century England By Dennis Todd

Editorial Review

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Thelma Burke:

Imagining Monsters: Miscreations of the Self in Eighteenth-Century England can be one of your nice books that are good idea. We all recommend that straight away because this reserve has good vocabulary that can increase your knowledge in vocab, easy to understand, bit entertaining however delivering the information. The author giving his/her effort to put every word into delight arrangement in writing Imagining Monsters: Miscreations of the Self in Eighteenth-Century England however doesn't forget the main place, giving the reader the hottest as well as based confirm resource data that maybe you can be certainly one of it. This great information can certainly drawn you into brand-new stage of crucial contemplating.

Carla McFarlin:

Is it anyone who having spare time after that spend it whole day by watching television programs or just resting on the bed? Do you need something totally new? This Imagining Monsters: Miscreations of the Self in Eighteenth-Century England can be the response, oh how comes? A book you know. You are therefore out of date, spending your extra time by reading in this completely new era is common not a nerd activity. So what these ebooks have than the others?

Brian Crowe:

You will get this Imagining Monsters: Miscreations of the Self in Eighteenth-Century England by check out the bookstore or Mall. Simply viewing or reviewing it could to be your solve issue if you get difficulties on your knowledge. Kinds of this reserve are various. Not only through written or printed and also can you enjoy this book by e-book. In the modern era such as now, you just looking because of your mobile phone and searching what your problem. Right now, choose your current ways to get more information about your publication. It is most important to arrange yourself to make your knowledge are still up-date. Let's try to choose correct ways for you.

Elizabeth Johannes:

As a university student exactly feel bored in order to reading. If their teacher asked them to go to the library or to make summary for some publication, they are complained. Just very little students that has reading's heart or real their hobby. They just do what the educator want, like asked to the library. They go to presently there but nothing reading very seriously. Any students feel that studying is not important, boring as well as can't see colorful photos on there. Yeah, it is for being complicated. Book is very important in your case. As

we know that on this period, many ways to get whatever we would like. Likewise word says, many ways to reach Chinese's country. Therefore this Imagining Monsters: Miscreations of the Self in Eighteenth-Century England can make you sense more interested to read.

Download and Read Online Imagining Monsters: Miscreations of the Self in Eighteenth-Century England By Dennis Todd #2F9S0K1Q53O

Read Imagining Monsters: Miscreations of the Self in Eighteenth-Century England By Dennis Todd for online ebook

Imagining Monsters: Miscreations of the Self in Eighteenth-Century England By Dennis Todd Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read Imagining Monsters: Miscreations of the Self in Eighteenth-Century England By Dennis Todd books to read online.

Online Imagining Monsters: Miscreations of the Self in Eighteenth-Century England By Dennis Todd ebook PDF download

Imagining Monsters: Miscreations of the Self in Eighteenth-Century England By Dennis Todd Doc

Imagining Monsters: Miscreations of the Self in Eighteenth-Century England By Dennis Todd Mobipocket

Imagining Monsters: Miscreations of the Self in Eighteenth-Century England By Dennis Todd EPub

2F9S0K1Q53O: Imagining Monsters: Miscreations of the Self in Eighteenth-Century England By Dennis Todd