



The Oracle and the Curse: A Poetics of Justice from the Revolution to the Civil War (Hardback)

By Caleb Smith

HARVARD UNIVERSITY PRESS, United States, 2013. Hardback. Book Condition: New. New.. 236 x 157 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. Condemned to hang after his raid on Harper's Ferry, John Brown prophesied that the crimes of a slave-holding land would be purged away only with blood. A study of omens, maledictions, and inspired invocations, *The Oracle and the Curse* examines how utterances such as Brown's shaped American literature between the Revolution and the Civil War. In nineteenth-century criminal trials, judges played the role of law's living oracles, but offenders were also given an opportunity to address the public. When the accused began to turn the tables on their judges, they did so not through rational arguments but by calling down a divine retribution. Widely circulated in newspapers and pamphlets, these curses appeared to channel an otherworldly power, condemning an unjust legal system and summoning readers to the side of righteousness. Exploring the modes of address that communicated the authority of law and the dictates of conscience in antebellum America's court of public opinion, Caleb Smith offers a new poetics of justice which assesses the nonrational influence that these printed confessions, trial reports, and martyr narratives...

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Reviews

The book is great and fantastic. Yes, it really is engage in, still an interesting and amazing literature. You wont feel monotony at any moment of your respective time (that's what catalogs are for regarding if you request me).

-- Daren Raynor II

Complete information for publication fans. Better then never, though i am quite late in start reading this one. Its been written in an extremely straightforward way in fact it is just soon after i finished reading this ebook in which basically altered me, change the way i believe.

-- Ellie Stark