



Horizons of Enchantment: Essays in the American Imaginary (Re-Mapping the Transnational: A Dartmouth Series in American Studies)

Lene M. Johannessen

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Horizons of Enchantment is about the peculiar power and exceptional pull of the imaginary in American culture. Johannessen's subject here is the almost mystical American belief in the promise and potential of the individual, or the reliance on a kind of "modern magic" that can loosely be characterized as a fundamental and unwavering faith in the secular sanctity of the American project of modernity. Among the diverse topics and cultural artifacts she examines are the Norwegian American novel *A Saloonkeeper's Daughter* by Drude Krog Janson, Walt Whitman's *Song of Myself*, Rodolfo Gonzales's *I Am Joaquín*, Richard Ford's *The Sportswriter*, Ana Menéndez's *In Cuba I Was a German Shepherd*, essays by Samuel Huntington and Richard Rodriguez, and the 2009 film *Sugar*, about a Dominican baseball player trying to make it in the big leagues. In both her subject matter and perspective, Johannessen reconfigures and enriches questions of the transnational and exceptional in American studies.

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