

# Reading 'Desperate Housewives': Beyond the White Picket Fence (Reading Contemporary Television)

From Brand: I. B. Tauris



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The darkly comic series about the secret lives of Bree, Gabrielle, Lynette, Susan and the other ladies living on Wisteria Lane became an instant breakthrough hit when it premiered in the fall of 2004. *Reading Desperate Housewives* offers a wide-ranging critical assessment of one of the most talked about shows on American television, dissecting its appeal and tapping into early responses to the show and the controversy surrounding it. Essays consider such diverse issues as its representation of the war of the sexes and how it illuminates contemporary feminism, Republican politics and the rise of the Right, gender and femininity, motherhood and marriage--as well as the rumors surrounding that notorious *Vanity Fair* cover shoot. Also including an episode guide, this enjoyable companion asks: Has this show done for suburban women what *Sex and the City* did for the single girl?

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About the Author

**Kim Akass** is Lecturer in Film Studies at London Metropolitan University. **Janet McCabe** is Lecturer in Film Studies at Trinity College, Dublin. Both are editors of *Reading Sex & the City* (I.B.Tauris, 2004) and *Reading Six Feet Under* (I.B.Tauris, 2005) and *Reading the L-Word* (I.B.Tauris, 2006).

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