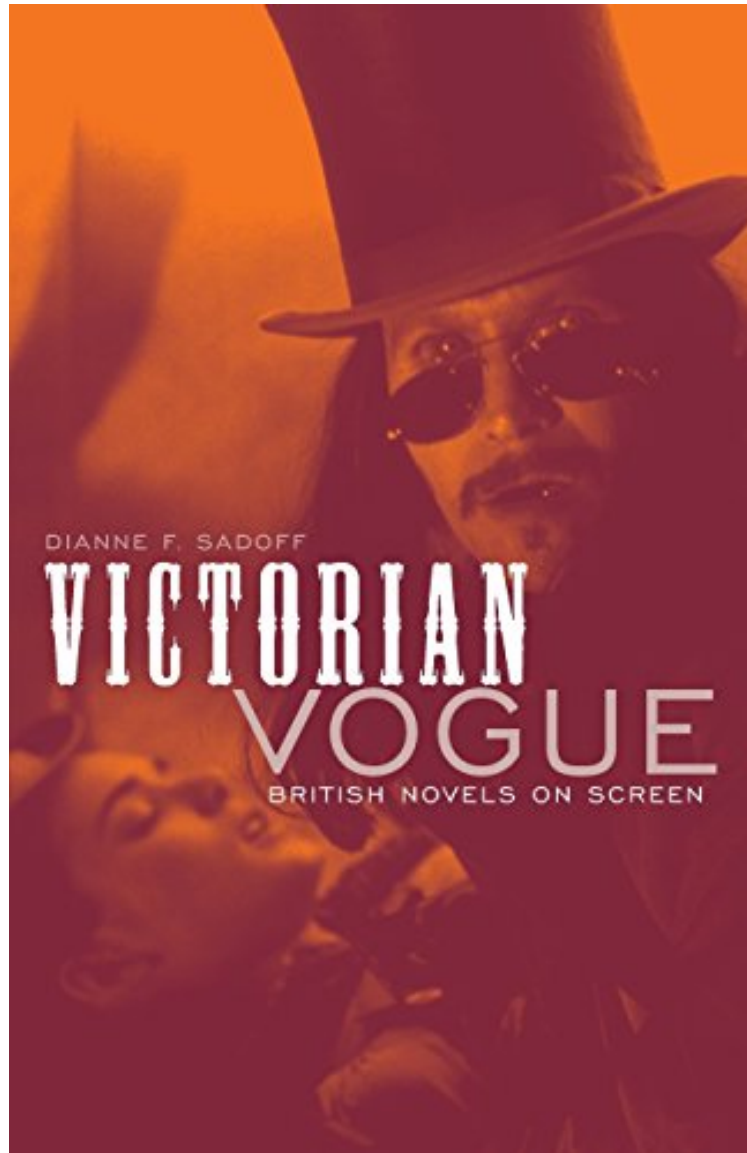


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Victorian Vogue: British Novels on Screen

Dianne F. Sadoff

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Dianne F. Sadoff : Victorian Vogue: British Novels on Screen before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Victorian Vogue: British Novels on Screen:

Ranging from cinematic images of Jane Austen's estates to Oscar Wilde's drawing rooms, Dianne F. Sadoff looks at popular heritage films, often featuring Hollywood stars, that have been adapted from nineteenth-century

novels. Victorian Vogue argues that heritage films perform different cultural functions at key historical moments in the twentieth century. According to Sadoff, they are characterized by a double historical consciousness—one that is as attentive to the concerns of the time of production as to those of the Victorian period. If James Whale's *Frankenstein* and Tod Browning's *Dracula* exploited post-Depression fear in the 1930s, the horror films of the 1950s used the genre to explore homosexual panic, 1970s movies elaborated the sexuality only hinted at in the thirties, and films of the 1990s indulged the pleasures of consumption. Taking a broad view of the relationships among film, literature, and current events, Sadoff contrasts films not merely with their nineteenth-century source novels but with crucial historical moments in the twentieth century, showing their cultural use in interpreting the present, not just the past.

About the Author Dianne F. Sadoff is professor of English at Rutgers University. She is author of several books and coeditor of *Victorian Afterlife: Postmodern Culture Rewrites the Nineteenth Century* (Minnesota, 2000).