



# Rewriting the Victorians: Modes of Literary Engagement with the 19th Century

*Andrea Kirchknopf*

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The 19th century has become especially relevant for the present--as one can see from, for example, large-scale adaptations of written works, as well as the explosion of commodities and even interactive theme parks. This book is an introduction to the novelistic refashionings that have come after the Victorian age with a special focus on revisions of Charlotte Bronte's *Jane Eyre* and Charles Dickens's *Great Expectations*. As post-Victorian research is still in the making, the first part is devoted to clarifying terminology and interpretive contexts. Two major frameworks for reading post-Victorian fiction are developed: the literary scene (authors, readers, critics) and the national-identity, political and social aspects. Among the works examined are Caryl Phillips's *Cambridge*, Matthew Kneale's *English Passengers*, Peter Carey's *Oscar and Lucinda* and Jack Maggs, Lloyd Jones's *Mister Pip*, Jean Rhys's *Wide Sargasso Sea*, D.M. Thomas's *Charlotte*, and Jasper Fforde's *The Eyre Affair*.

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