



# Affective Narratology: The Emotional Structure of Stories (Frontiers of Narrative)

*Patrick Colm Hogan*

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Stories engage our emotions. We've known this at least since the days of Plato and Aristotle. What this book helps us to understand now is how our own emotions fundamentally organize and orient stories. In light of recent cognitive research and wide reading in different narrative traditions, Patrick Colm Hogan argues that the structure of stories is a systematic product of human emotion systems. Examining the ways in which incidents, events, episodes, plots, and genres are a function of emotional processes, he demonstrates that emotion systems are absolutely crucial for understanding stories.

Hogan also makes a case for the potentially integral role that stories play in the development of our emotional lives. He provides an in-depth account of the function of emotion within story—in widespread genres with romantic, heroic, and sacrificial structures, and more limited genres treating parent/child separation, sexual pursuit, criminality, and revenge—as these appear in a variety of cross-cultural traditions. In the course of the book Hogan develops interpretations of works ranging from Tolstoy's *Anna Karenina* to African oral epics, from Sanskrit comedy to Shakespearean tragedy.

Integrating the latest research in affective science with narratology, this book provides a powerful explanatory account of narrative organization.



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