



# Going Scapegoat: Post-9/11 War Literature, Language and Culture

*David A. Buchanan*

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## **Going Scapegoat: Post-9/11 War Literature, Language and Culture** David A. Buchanan

Since 9/11, war literature has become a key element in American popular culture, spurring critical debate about depictions of combat--Who can write war literature? When can they do it? This book presents a new way to closely read war narratives, questioning the idea of "combat gnosticism"--the belief that the experience of war is impossible to communicate to those who have not seen it--that has dominated the discussion.

Adapting Kenneth Burke's scapegoat mechanism to the criticism of literature and film, the author examines three novels from 2012--Ben Fountain's *Billy Lynn's Long Halftime Walk*, David Abrams's *FOBBIT* and Kevin Powers' *The Yellow Birds*--that represent the U.S. military responses to 9/11.

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