



## Reading Richard Matheson: A Critical Survey

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Richard Matheson (1926–2013) was a prolific author and screenwriter whose career helped shape the horror and fantasy genres in literature, film, and television for over sixty years. Matheson authored more than ninety short stories and dozens of novels, many of which—including *I Am Legend*, *A Stir of Echoes*, *What Dreams May Come*, *The Shrinking Man*, *Hell House*, and *Bid Time Return*—have been adapted into feature films. Despite his extensive body of work and influence, however, Matheson has remained largely outside the scope of academic scrutiny.

The essays in *Reading Richard Matheson: A Critical Survey* provide the first critical overview of Matheson's texts, covering seven of Matheson's novels, a sampling of short stories, and several adaptations for both film and television. The essays are arranged thematically and address the sociopolitical anxieties reflected in Matheson's oeuvre; consider his precursors and successors; and situate him within narrative traditions of mythology, cinema, genre, and memory studies.

By providing an overview of his career, *Reading Richard Matheson* illustrates how a commercial writer can contribute to academic discourses of literature and film. Though the essays use a variety of theoretical frameworks, the crossover nature of the collection reflects the broad range of Matheson's output. As such, this volume will appeal to fans of Matheson's work in general as well as scholars of literature, film studies, cultural studies, genre studies, media studies, memory studies, and popular culture.

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