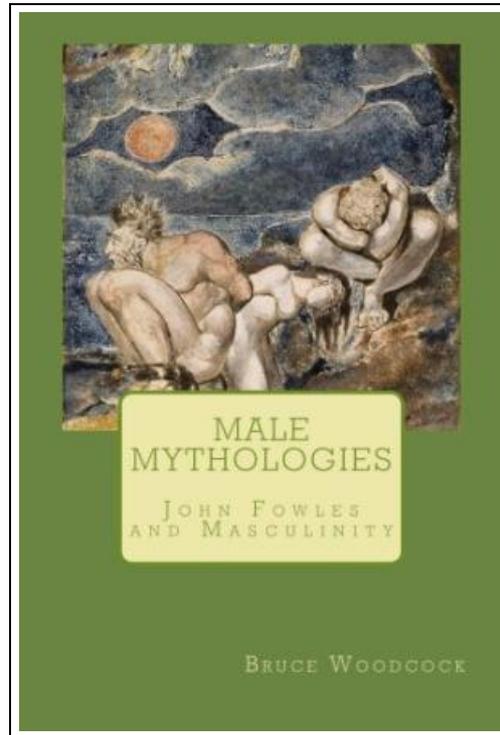


## Male Mythologies: John Fowles and Masculinity



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## MALE MYTHOLOGIES: JOHN FOWLES AND MASCULINITY

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Createspace, United States, 1984. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 214 x 149 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book \*\*\*\*\* Print on Demand \*\*\*\*\*.John Fowles is one of the most significant British novelists of the second half of the twentieth century, exploring the possibilities and limits of individual freedom in narratives which challenge, startle and entertain with their virtuosity. Influenced by existentialism and a newly-emergent wave of feminism, his depictions of men, male power and masculinity expose the inherent contradictions lived out not just by his characters, but also himself as a male novelist. While laying bare masculinity as a social and cultural construct, Fowles also dramatises his own contradictory status as part of the problem he is analysing. He both deconstructs and reconstructs male mythologies. First published in 1984, this pioneering and controversial study examines Fowles's works in the context of newly-emergent discussions about masculinity. It lays claim to being the first study of the depiction of masculinity in fiction, as well as one of the earliest full-length studies of Fowles. The novels discussed are: *The Collector* , *The Magus* , *The French Lieutenant's Woman* , *Daniel Martin* , *Mantissa* , and a more recent essay on *A Maggot* is included for the sake of completion. The study also includes coverage of gender and masculinity theory, as well as Fowles's essays and interviews. Fowles was candid about the psychoanalytical origins of his fictional obsession with mysterious women figures, and he was equally direct in tracing his own critical awareness of the limits of masculinity , to use Andrew Tolson's phrase, back to his own early experiences in public school. From these roots comes his dissection of the experience of being a man, with inevitably contradictory results. In *The Collector* Fowles virtually invents the genre of the...

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