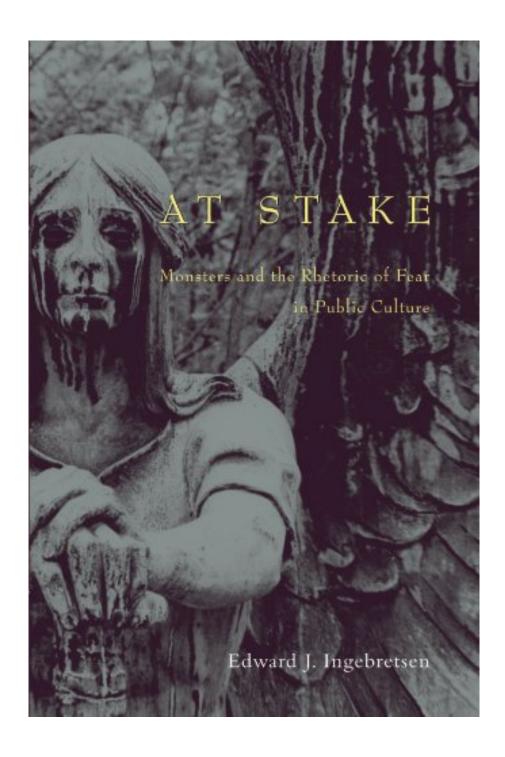


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Review

"[Ingebretson argues that] the monster is an emissary of frightening wisdom. Monsters are tribunes of social collapse, announcing the breakdown of social custom and civic boundary, particularly of race, class and gender. . . . Prophets of unwelcome knowledge, monsters are convenient targets of 'projectile contempt' and civic reprisal. Men and women seize on monsters to exorcize their own cultural demons."--Corey Robin, --Times Literary Supplement (Times Literary Supplement)

"Bad people are not merely monsters. Casual vilification of such people, as Edward J. Ingebretsen argues in his outstanding study At Stake, offers temporary reassurance of one's own civility. We sacrifice their humanity in order to strengthen the idea that we ourselves are normal, forgetting that all of us are deviations from the norm."

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By P. Warren

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