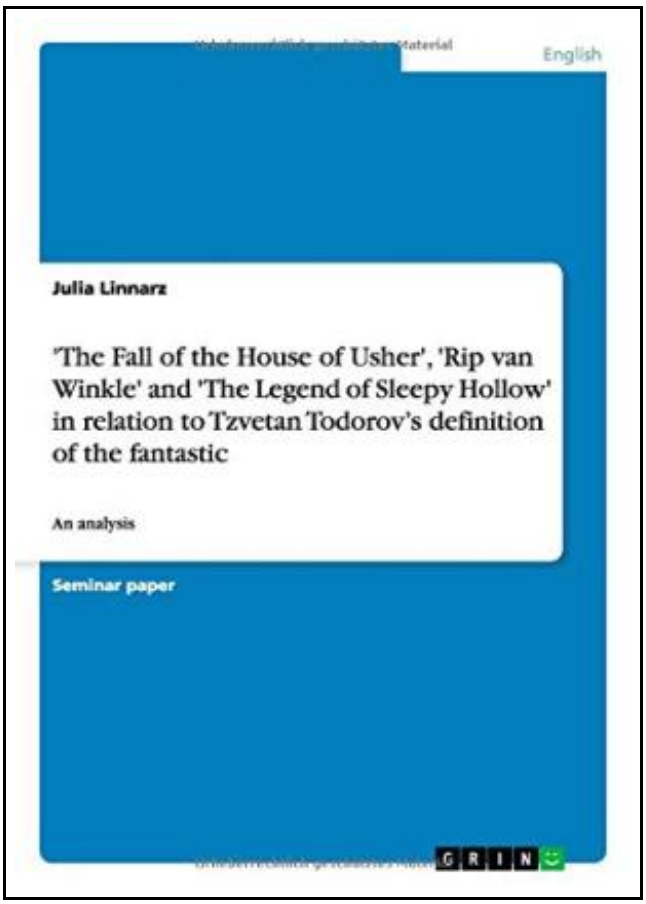
The Fall of the House of Usher, Rip Van Winkle and The Legend of Sleepy Hollow in Relation to Tzvetan Todorovs Definition of the Fantastic



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Reviews

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THE FALL OF THE HOUSE OF USHER, RIP VAN WINKLE AND THE LEGEND OF SLEEPY HOLLOW IN RELATION TO TZVETAN TODOROVS DEFINITION OF THE FANTASTIC

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Grin Verlag Gmbh. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Paperback. 36 pages. Dimensions: 8.1in. x 5.8in. x 0.3in.Seminar paper from the year 2009 in the subject English Language and Literature Studies - Comparative Literature, grade: 1, 7, University of Heidelberg (Anglistisches Seminar), course: American Romanticism and the Invention of Tradition, language: English, abstract: Common themes of American Romanticism were sentimentalism, primitivism and the cult of the noble savage, political liberalism, the celebration of natural beauty and the simple life, idealization of the common man and an interest in the picturesque past. Additionally, an interest in the supernatural or in the crepuscular heart of mystery (Hart 725) was a widespread topic used by romantic authors. The latter used the supernatural to deal with the disorienting situation of 19th cen-tury American culture, which was not only pressured by the frontier experience but also by an un-ease concerning the experiment of democracy, the virtual nonexistence of a developed American society and racial issues especially relating to slavery and the Native Americans. Additionally, the occupation with the supernatural showed the American romanticists concern with the cultures occupation with death in an increasingly secular, individualistic, and scientific age. Two romantic authors that tried their hand as supernatural tales are Washington Irving and Ed-gar Allan Poe. In their supernatural tales ghosts, ghouls, vampires and other mysterious beings as well as inexplicable phenomena make their appearance. Some of these appearances can be ration-ally explained; others are clearly of supernatural origin. The reader of supernatural tales usually chooses one or the other explanation. However, sometimes the reader hesitates between the two. Stories, in which the latter is the case, are according to Tzvetan Todorovs definition situated in the fantastic. In my opinion Washington Irvings tales Rip van Winkle and The Legend of Sleepy Hollow and Edgar Allan Poes The Fall...

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