



# Revisionist Rape-Revenge: Redefining a Film Genre

*Claire Henry*

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## **Revisionist Rape-Revenge: Redefining a Film Genre** Claire Henry

Rape-revenge is one of film studies' neglected genres, in spite of the plethora of examples globally over the past decade. Previously considered a notorious subset of 1970s and 1980s horror or exploitation, there has been a massive revitalization and diversification of rape-revenge in recent years. This book updates and redefines the rape-revenge genre, analyzing the politics, ethics, and affects at play in the filmic construction of rape and its responses. Henry examines significant trends in rape-revenge's temporal, cross-media, and cross-cultural shifts during the genre's revisionist phase through in-depth case studies of films such as *The Last House on the Left*, *Katalin Varga*, and *Descent*. These case studies are placed within the broader cultural myths and media narratives about rape. The book uncovers the current potential and limitations of this under-theorized genre for cultural explorations of political and ethical issues surrounding gender, power, sexuality, spectatorship, rape, and revenge.

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