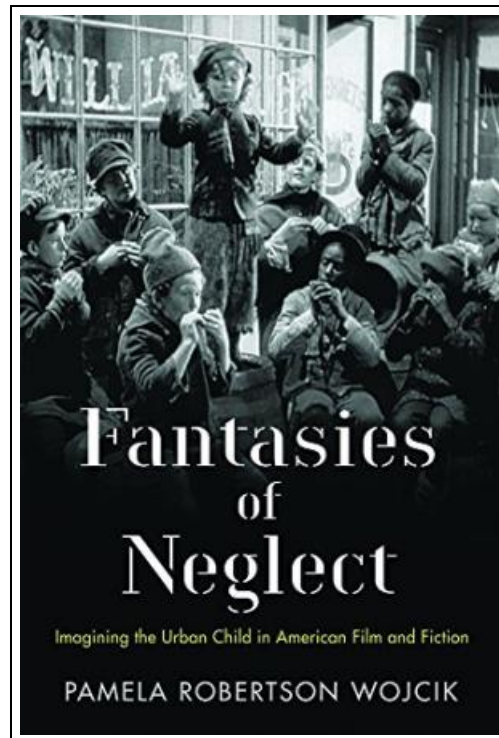


Fantasies of Neglect: Imagining the Urban Child in American Film and Fiction (Hardback)



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FANTASIES OF NEGLECT: IMAGINING THE URBAN CHILD IN AMERICAN FILM AND FICTION (HARDBACK)



Rutgers University Press, United States, 2016. Hardback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book. In our current era of helicopter parenting and stranger danger, an unaccompanied child wandering through the city might commonly be viewed as a victim of abuse and neglect. However, from the early twentieth century to the present day, countless books and films have portrayed the solitary exploration of urban spaces as a source of empowerment and delight for children. *Fantasies of Neglect* explains how this trope of the self-sufficient, mobile urban child originated and considers why it persists, even as it goes against the grain of social reality. Drawing from a wide range of films, children's books, adult novels, and sociological texts, Pamela Robertson Wojcik investigates how cities have simultaneously been demonized as dangerous spaces unfit for children and romanticized as wondrous playgrounds that foster a child's independence and imagination. Charting the development of free-range urban child characters from *Little Orphan Annie* to *Harriet the Spy* to *Hugo Cabret*, and from *Shirley Temple* to *the Dead End Kids*, she considers the ongoing dialogue between these fictional representations and shifting discourses on the freedom and neglect of children. While tracking the general concerns Americans have expressed regarding the abstract figure of the child, the book also examines the varied attitudes toward specific types of urban children - girls and boys, blacks and whites, rich kids and poor ones, loners and neighborhood gangs. Through this diverse selection of sources, *Fantasies of Neglect* presents a nuanced chronicle of how notions of American urbanism and American childhood have grown up together.



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