

(Mobile pdf) Encyclopedia of Utopian Literature (ABC-CLIO Literary Companion)

Encyclopedia of Utopian Literature (ABC-CLIO Literary Companion)

Mary Ellen Snodgrass
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Mary Ellen Snodgrass : Encyclopedia of Utopian Literature (ABC-CLIO Literary Companion) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Encyclopedia of Utopian Literature (ABC-CLIO Literary Companion):

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Good, though not comprehensiveBy JerikaA one-person "encyclopedia" is always a risky proposition, and Snodgrass carries this one off fairly well overall. There seems to be more cross-referencing than is strictly necessary, and even this isn't 100% consistent (certain characters from major

literary works get their own entries, while others are passed over a given a "see [major literary work]"). Of course there are going to be some oversights, and she does openly state that she had to draw the line between utopian and sci-fi/fantasy somewhere. Thus her omission of several significant works of social-science fiction (including Harrison's "Make Room! Make Room!", the inspiration for the film *Soylent Green*) is understandable, I guess, though she also chooses to include some of the other biggies (like *A Clockwork Orange*). My biggest cause for concern was the summaries: after reading a few about works I have read, it made me a bit anxious about how much to rely on the summaries for works I haven't read. Snodgrass's summary of *The Handmaid's Tale*, for instance, is rather uneven, focusing on relatively trivial moments ("the Handmaid cowers in the closet as she suppresses hysteria") while passing over major plot points, and flatly misstates the ending. There is also NO entry for socialism (though there is a brief one for communism, as well as for broad religious terms like "Heaven" and "Hell"). This book is a good starting point for those wishing to learn (or teach) about broad utopia concepts and be introduced to seminal works, but it's far from a complete work.

Offers brief summaries of utopian novels, discusses concepts related to utopias and dystopias, and offers profiles of utopian writers.