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Anatomy of a Robot: Literature, Cinema, and the Cultural Work of Artificial People (Hardback)

By Despina Kakoudaki

Rutgers University Press, United States, 2014. Hardback. Book Condition: New. 231 x 155 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. Why do we find artificial people fascinating? Drawing from a rich fictional and cinematic tradition, *Anatomy of a Robot* explores the political and textual implications of our perennial projections of humanity onto figures such as robots, androids, cyborgs, and automata. In an engaging, sophisticated, and accessible presentation, Despina Kakoudaki argues that, in their narrative and cultural deployment, artificial people demarcate what it means to be human. They perform this function by offering us a non-human version of ourselves as a site of investigation. Artificial people teach us that being human, being a person or a self, is a constant process and often a matter of legal, philosophical, and political struggle. By analysing a wide range of literary texts and films (including episodes from *Twilight Zone*, the fiction of Philip K. Dick, Kazuo Ishiguro's novel *Never Let Me Go*, *Metropolis*, *The Golem*, *Frankenstein*, *The Terminator*, *Iron Man*, *Blade Runner*, and *I, Robot*), and going back to alchemy and to Aristotle's *Physics* and *De Anima*, she tracks four foundational narrative elements in this centuries-old discourse-- the fantasy of the artificial...



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