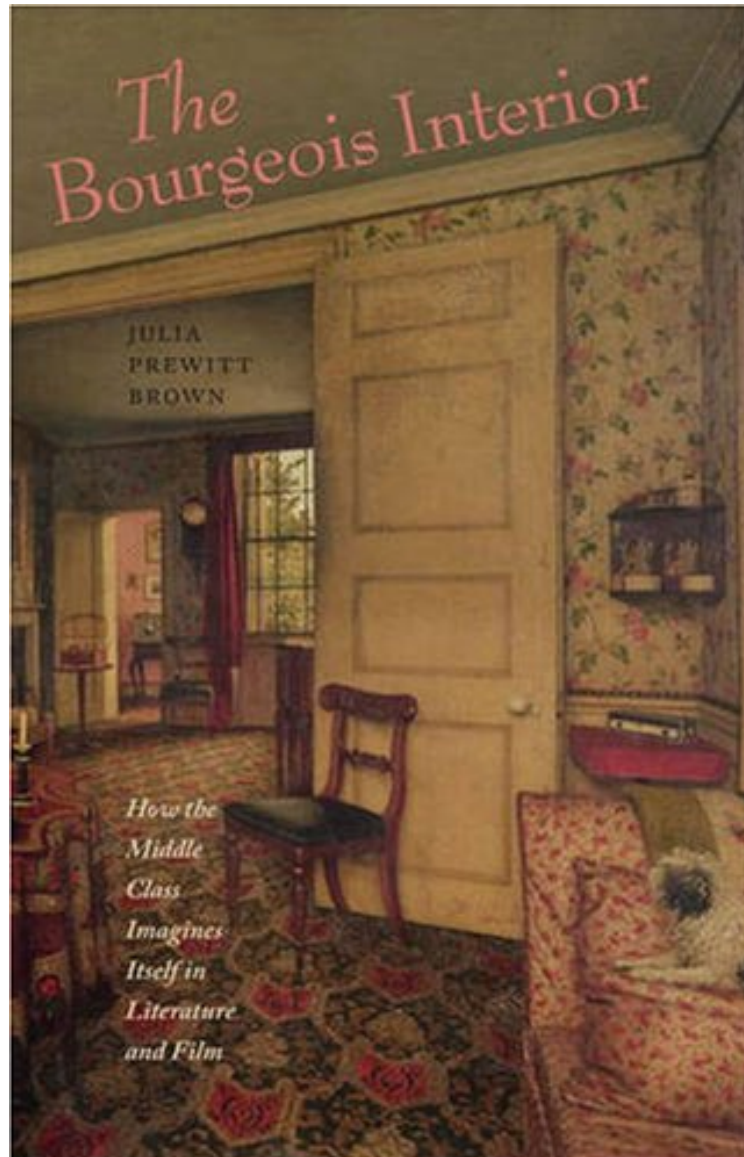


(Download free pdf) The Bourgeois Interior

## The Bourgeois Interior

*Julia Prewitt Brown*

*ebooks | Download PDF | \*ePub | DOC | audiobook*



[Download](#)

[Read Online](#)

#3654668 in Books University of Virginia Press 2008-06-10 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.54 x .77 x 5.951, .82 #File Name: 0813927102208 pages | File size: 54.Mb

**Julia Prewitt Brown : The Bourgeois Interior** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Bourgeois Interior:

From Robinson Crusoes cave to Henry Selwyns hermitage, the domestic interior tells a story about "things" and their relation to character and identity. Beginning with a description of a typical middle-class interior in America

today noting how its contents echo interiors described in literatures of the past. Julia Prewitt Brown asks why certain features persist, despite radical changes in domestic life over the past three hundred years. The answer lies, Brown argues, in the way the bourgeois interior functions as a medium, a many-layered fabric across which different energies travel, be they psychological, political, or aesthetic. In this way, objects are not symbols but rather the materials out of which symbols are made--symbols that constitute the very soul of the bourgeois. In a wide-ranging analysis, moving from works by Daniel Defoe, Jane Austen, Charles Dickens, and Henry James to those by Virginia Woolf, Ingmar Bergman, John Updike, and W. G. Sebald, Brown shows that what is at issue is less the economic basis of class than the bourgeoisie's imagination of itself. The themes explored include the middle class's ever-increasing desire for more wealth, as well as Victorian women's identification with the domestic interior and the changes that took place when they began working outside the home. Brown also examines the ambivalence of economically determined objects both as repositories of memory and dreams and as fetishized commodities that become detached from everyday reality. Does the bourgeois possess the interior and its objects, or do the interior and its objects possess the bourgeois?

About the Author: Julia Prewitt Brown is Professor of English at Boston University and the author of *Cosmopolitan Criticism: Oscar Wilde's Philosophy of Art (Virginia)* and *Jane Austen's Novels: Social Change and Literary Form*.