

Joseph Incardona's roman noir: A pretext to capture the present

Swiss detective fiction in French. Joseph Incardona. Writing the present. Social problems.

This article is a case study focusing on the Swiss writer Joseph Incardona's 2015 novel *Derrière les panneaux il y a des hommes* (Behind the Signs, There are Men). It proves that this winner of the Grand Prix de Littérature Policière uses the devices of crime fiction as a pretext to reflect on present-day social problems. After a brief introduction to the context of detective literature in France where the novel was published, an in-depth textual analysis is carried out. Its results show that the book is neither a traditional detective novel nor a thriller, but a *roman noir*. Subsequently, Incardona's unique idiolect, the way in which he depicts the present, and his means of expression are discussed.

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