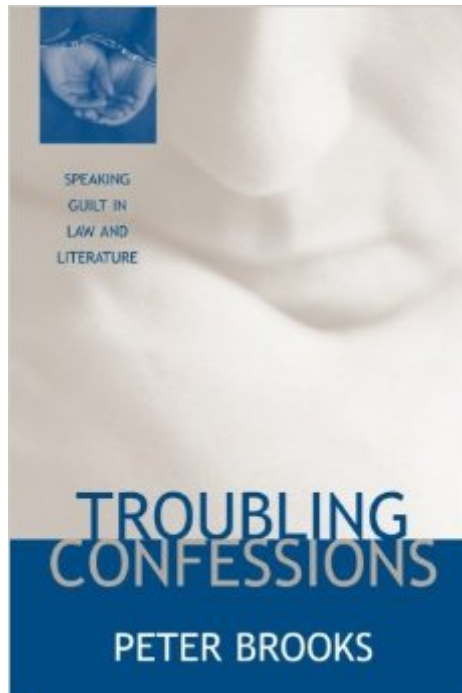


The book was found

# Troubling Confessions: Speaking Guilt In Law And Literature



## Synopsis

The constant call to admit guilt amounts almost to a tyranny of confession today. We demand tell-all tales in the public dramas of the courtroom, the talk shows, and in print, as well as in the more private spaces of the confessional and the psychoanalyst's office. Yet we are also deeply uneasy with the concept: how can we tell whether a confession is true? What if it has been coerced? In *Troubling Confessions*, Peter Brooks juxtaposes cases from law and literature to explore the kinds of truth we associate with confessions, and why we both rely on them and regard them with suspicion. For centuries the law has considered confession to be "the queen of proofs," yet it has also seen a need to regulate confessions and the circumstances under which they are made, as evidenced in the continuing debate over the Miranda decision. Western culture has made confessional speech a prime measure of authenticity, seeing it as an expression of selfhood that bears witness to personal truth. Yet the urge to confess may be motivated by inextricable layers of shame, guilt, self-loathing, the desire to propitiate figures of authority. Literature has often understood the problematic nature of confession better than the law, as Brooks demonstrates in perceptive readings of legal cases set against works by Rousseau, Dostoevsky, Joyce, and Camus, among others. Mitya in *The Brothers Karamazov* captures the trouble with confessional speech eloquently when he offers his confession with the anguished plea: this is a confession; handle with care. By questioning the truths of confession, Peter Brooks challenges us to reconsider how we demand confessions and what we do with them.

## Book Information

Paperback: 224 pages

Publisher: University Of Chicago Press; 1 edition (October 1, 2001)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0226075869

ISBN-13: 978-0226075860

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.7 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 13.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars Â See all reviews Â (4 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #933,254 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #142 in Â Books > Gay & Lesbian > Literature & Fiction > Literary Criticism #251 in Â Books > Gay & Lesbian > Nonfiction > Philosophy #1666 in Â Books > Textbooks > Humanities > Literature > American Literature

## Customer Reviews

Those with an interest in law and literature have awaited this book, and for them there should be no disappointment. From a variety of perspectives, Brooks reflects on the extraordinary value that Western culture places on the act of confession, and the equally extraordinary problems that Western culture has assessing individual confessions. We want confessions, yet we are equally suspicious of them. Brooks' method for examining this cultural ambiguity is to juxtapose literary and legal traditions of confession (the religious tradition also receives significant attention). By juxtaposing these traditions, Brooks argues that we can better see the demands that are made of confession in Western culture, as well as the demands that confession, in turn, makes of us as members of social communities and as individuals. His interdisciplinary moves are skillful, his historical and legal glossings are accessible, and his readings of literary texts (and films) are smart. The chapters can be read individually, allowing the reader to jump around at will. Chapter 1 looks at how the Supreme Court has tried to address the problem of confession, primarily through Miranda. Chapter 2 looks at the relationship between the confessor to the confessant in various contexts -- law, literature, religion, psychoanalysis. Chapter 3 looks at the problem of the voluntary vs. the coerced confession with a close reading of *Culombe v. Connecticut*. Chapter 4 discusses how the religious tradition of confession affects modern understanding of identity and selfhood. Chapter 5 addresses the law's difficulty addressing psychoanalytic concepts of truth, identity, guilt, and victimhood. Finally, Chapter 6 sums things up by looking at what motivates or compels an confession at all.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Troubling Confessions: Speaking Guilt in Law and Literature Guilt Release, Let Go of Guilt and Shame: Sleep Learning, Hypnosis, Relaxation, Meditation & Affirmations No-Bake Cheesecake: 40 Low-Carb, No-Bake Cheesecake Recipes That You Can Indulge in Without Guilt (Guilt-Free Desserts) Guide to Law and Literature for Teachers, Students, and Researchers: Companion Text to Literature and Legal Problem Solving : Law and Literature As Ethical Discourse Troubling the Line: Trans and Genderqueer Poetry and Poetics The Pokemon Go Addiction: Learning to Log Off And Avoid A Troubling Obsession Troubling Freedom: Antigua and the Aftermath of British Emancipation Hubris: The Troubling Science, Economics, and Politics of Climate Change An Elusive Science: The Troubling History of Education Research Reality Bites Back: The Troubling Truth About Guilty Pleasure TV AIDS Literature and Gay Identity: The Literature of Loss (Routledge Studies in Twentieth-Century Literature) Homeopathic Guide to Stress: Safe and Effective Natural Way to Alleviate Physical and Emotional Stress Anxiety, Guilt, Shame, Depression, Loss, Illness and Injury, Negative Effect Guilt-Free Low Carb Box Set ( 6 in 1): Over 200 Stir Fry, Spiralizer,

Freezer, Mug Meals, Tea Cleanse, Ice Cream Recipes for Healthy and Pleasurable Weight ...  
(Special Appliances & Weight Loss Recipes) Healthy Slow Cooker Recipes: 25 Quick, Easy and  
Low-Calorie Recipes For Guilt-Free Meals Hungry Girl: Recipes and Survival Strategies for  
Guilt-Free Eating in the Real World Emotional First Aid: Healing Rejection, Guilt, Failure, and Other  
Everyday Hurts The Peaceful Daughter's Guide to Separating from A Difficult Mother: Freeing  
Yourself From The Guilt, Anger, Resentment and Bitterness of Being Raised ... (The Peaceful  
Daughter's Guides Book 1) Politics and Guilt: The Destructive Power of Silence (European Horizons  
Series) Emotional First Aid: Practical Strategies for Treating Failure, Rejection, Guilt, and Other  
Everyday Psychological Injuries Ice Cream: Ketogenic Homemade Ice Cream (Paleo / Gluten Free):  
20 Low-Carb, High-Fat, Guilt-Free Recipes

[Dmca](#)