Theorizing the Middlebrow. An interview with Nicola Humble, by Elke D'hoker
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Abstract

In this interview, Nicola Humble, author of *The Feminine Middlebrow Novel* (2001), discusses the concept of the middlebrow as it is used in relation to late 19th- and 20th-century literature. She identifies the middlebrow primarily as a marker of the reception of texts and authors in a given cultural system and is especially interested in the hybrid nature of middlebrow literature and in its shifting boundaries with highbrow, avant-garde literature on the one hand, and lowbrow, popular literature on the other. In the interview, Humble also addresses questions about the role of class, gender and nationality in the conceptualisation of the middlebrow and she considers the complex relation between modernism and the middlebrow. Finally, she gives an overview of recent developments in middlebrow studies and indicates future directions for research.
Ralph and Nicholas Nickleby were brothers who grew up on a farm in Devon with their mother and father. When their parents died, Nicholas lived on the farm with the cows and the sheep. Ralph moved to London so that he could make a lot of money. Nicholas fell in love and married his neighbour’s daughter. They had two children, a boy, Nicholas, named after his father, and a daughter, Kate. The children were sent to the best schools. However, the money did not last and they could not afford to pay the bills. Nicholas, the father, worried but he was not able to make money like his brother Ralph. Check Nicola Humble: Books, Feminine Middlebrow Novel, University, Global History, Household Management, Roehampton, Book of Household, Beeton’s Book, Oxford. The Icing on the Cake: An Interview with Nicola Humble Baking festivity. Jeffrey Kastner and Nicola Humble Issue 52 Celebration (Winter Cake by Nicola Humble · OverDrive (Rakuten OverDrive): eBooks, www.overdrive.com. Be it a birthday or a wedding—let them eat cake. Encased in icing, crowned with candles, emblazoned with congratulatory words—cake is the ultimate food of Cake eBook by Nicola Humble - 9781861897305 | Rakuten Kobo. www.kobo.com.