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Sommario/riassunto

This book is an original and innovative study of how Gothic nostalgia and toxic memory are used to underpin and promote the ongoing culture wars and populist politics in contemporary popular culture. The essays collected here cover topics from the spectral to the ecological, deep fakes to toxic ableism, *Mary Poppins* to *John Wick* to reveal how the use of an imaginary past to shape the present, creates truly Gothic times that we can never escape. These 'hungry ghosts' from the past find resonance with the Gothic which speaks equally of a past that often not only haunts the present but will not let it escape its grasp. This collection will look at the confluence between various kinds of toxic nostalgia and popular culture to suggest the ways in which contemporary populism has resurrected ideological monsters from the grave to gorge on the present and any possibility of change that the future might represent. Simon Bacon is an independent scholar based in Pozna, Poland. Katarzyna Bronk-Bacon is Assistant Professor at Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan, Poland.
