

Patriarchy's Remains

An Autopsy of Iberian Cinematic Dark Humour

Erin K. Hogan

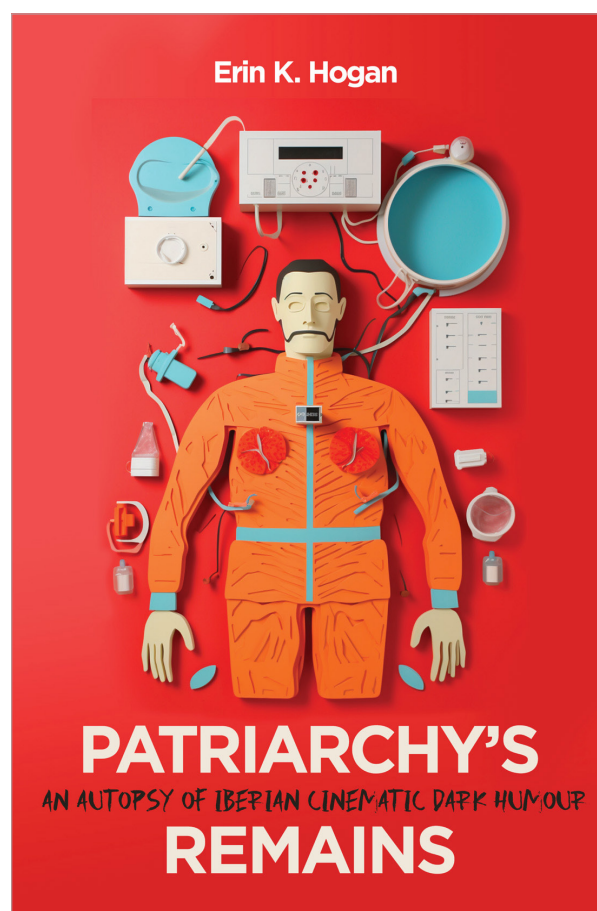
How the cinematic trope of the patriarch's corpse symbolises the state of democracy in Spain.

"Patriarchy's Remains opens new avenues of inquiry in Spanish film and history by tying the themes of films from the Franco era to more recent films and cultural events. Throughout, Erin Hogan incorporates an important gender component to the study, analyzing how female characters are portrayed in relation to the patriarch. Overall, this is an excellent book on a fascinating subject." MARIA ELENA SOLIÑO, University of Houston

Something is rotten in the state of Spain. The uninterred, lingering corpse of a patriarchal figure populates the visual landscapes of Iberian cinemas. He is chilled, drugged, perfumed, ventilated, presumed dead, speared in the cranium, and worse.

Analysing a series of Iberian cinematic dark comedies from the 1950s to the present day, *Patriarchy's Remains* argues that the cinematic trope of the patriarchal death symbolises the lingering remains of the Francisco Franco dictatorship in Spain (1939–75). These films, created as satirical responses to persisting economic, social, and political issues, demonstrate that Spain's transition to democracy following the Francoist period is an incomplete and ongoing process. Within the theme of patriarchal decay, the significance of the figure differs across cinematic representations, from his indispensability to his obstructionism and exploitation. Erin K. Hogan traces the prevalence of patriarchal death by analysing its relationship with the surrounding characters who must depend on the deceased. Hogan demonstrates how the patriarch's persistence in film both reveals and challenges an array of discriminations and inequalities in the cinematic grotesque tradition, in Iberian cinemas more broadly, and in Iberian society as a whole.

Despite Spain's ongoing transition towards democratic pluralism, *Patriarchy's Remains* serves as a reminder that the remnants of an entrenched although not interred patriarchal culture continue to impact Iberian society.



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