



The Bridges of Madison County by Robert James Waller

Publ. 1992

Themes

- Pioneer/Settler
 - last cowboy, freedom, price?
 - farmer's wife, stability, price?
 - Change/Predictability, Natural/Rules, Liberty/Safety
- Eroticism
 - sexes
 - attraction of opposites
- Art
 - Yeats poetry & photography of writing?
 - "art for art's sake"
 - "the market kills passion"

Narrative

- Structure
 - manuscript given to author by children
 - present-day: her birthday
 - flashbacks to '60s
- point of view
 - omniscient memoirs
 - woman's?
- narration
 - weather sultry, stormy, sunny feelings
 - music dance, country (emotional), guitar
 - sermonising ecology violence
- type
 - erotic?
 - romantic?
 - tragedy? loss stoicism

Language

- technical
 - photography shots "God light"
 - bridges camera work
- dialogue
 - feelings
 - poetic thoughts
 - moralising

Characters

- Francesca
 - outsider, Italian, balanced?
- Robert
 - natural, wild, strong
 - poetic, gentle, graceful
- Richard Children
 - unromantic, traditional threatened?