

**OTHERS, DOUBLES, MIRRORS, SELVES: SCAVENGED IDENTITIES AND  
DOPPELGÄNGER SPACES IN NEIL GAIMAN'S  
CORALINE, NEVERWHERE, AND THE GRAVEYARD BOOK**

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**Abstract:** *The paper aims to examine the journeys undertaken by the protagonists of Coraline, Neverwhere and The Graveyard Book in an attempt to highlight the extent to which Neil Gaiman's prose not only reshapes the uncanny and challenges the conventions of fantasy and horror alike, but also adds new dimensions to the doppelgänger paradigm. Far from being confined to the familiar premise of the ghostly other, Gaiman's doubles range from surrogate parents and monstrous necrophages to intertextual impostors and, more importantly, extend beyond the level of individual identity into the realm of architecture and landscape. By focusing on salient details of Coraline Jones's encounter with the Other Mother, Richard Mayhew's descent into London Below and Nobody Owens' unconventional upbringing, the analysis aims to draw attention to the numerous ways in which the three texts engage in doppelgänger scenarios, not only featuring stolen identities and mirror worlds but also employing a wide variety of intertextual strategies to cannibalize, recycle and recreate familiar plots and tropes whilst steadfastly reinforcing the value of authenticity.*

**Keywords:** *alterity; border(land); doppelgänger; identity; intertextuality; uncanny*