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Birds of Neptune

Kristian Petersen

University of Nebraska at Omaha, kjpetersen@unomaha.edu

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Birds of Neptune

Abstract
This is a film review of *Birds of Neptune* (2015) directed by Stephen Richter.

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Author Notes
Kristian Petersen is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Religious Studies at the University of Nebraska Omaha. His research and teaching interests include Islamic Studies, East Asian traditions, Media Studies, and Theory and Methodology in the Study of Religion. He hosts several academic podcasts at Marginalia Review of Books, Religious Studies News, New Books in Religion, and New Books in Islamic Studies.

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In *Birds Of Neptune* two sisters, Rachel and Mona, exist in a suspended reality of their past lives. Living alone in their childhood home, the two young adults cannot let go of the pained secrets of their past or the excellence of their deceased parents. Due to these curious circumstances the ladies see themselves in a world of supernatural workings, including fairies and rituals. We find out that after the accidental death of their younger brother the family joined a small religious group with unusual beliefs and practices (referred to as a cult in the film). While Rachel and Mona still seem affected by their experiences and traumas within this community they do not structure their lives in any particular religious manner. A dishonest stranger, Zach, connects with Mona and starts to manipulate the situation by trying to control the sisters. He realizes the lack of
confidence and control in their lives and takes advantage of their openness and lack of protection. Ultimately, Rachel overcomes her past through her connection with making music, and Mona discards Zach to be on her own. Overall, the film’s mysterious mood reflects the atmospheric conditions of each level of their environment, including the house’s basement, bedrooms, and living areas, as well as the beauty of the Pacific Northwest captured by the director. The setting is amplified by the spectral elements of these women’s setting and displays their inner states. In the end, we can think of *Birds of Neptune* as a modern day ghost story that has realistic and longing effects. It shows how the monstrous may be developed within and our responses to it often come from our own construction of the world around us.