

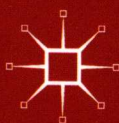
THE HISTORY OF BRITISH WOMEN'S WRITING



THE HISTORY OF BRITISH WOMEN'S WRITING, 1920-1945

Edited by Maroula Joannou

Volume Eight



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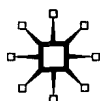
Volume Eight

Edited by

Maroula Joannou



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The History of British Women's Writing, 1920–1945

The History of British Women's Writing

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To the Memory of Julia Briggs (1943–2007)

Series Editors' Preface

One of the most significant developments in literary studies in the last quarter of a century has been the remarkable growth of scholarship on women's writing. This was inspired by, and in turn provided inspiration for, a postwar women's movement, which saw women's cultural expression as key to their emancipation. The retrieval, republication and reappraisal of women's writing, beginning in the mid-1960s have radically affected the literary curriculum in schools and universities. A revised canon now includes many more women writers. Literature courses that focus on what women thought and wrote from antiquity onwards have become popular undergraduate and postgraduate options. These new initiatives have meant that gender – in language, authors, texts, audience, and in the history of print culture more generally – are central questions for literary criticism and literary history. A mass of fascinating research and analysis extending over several decades now stands as testimony to a lively and diverse set of debates, in an area of work that is still expanding.

Indeed so rapid has this expansion been, that it has become increasingly difficult for students and academics to have a comprehensive view of the wider field of women's writing outside their own period or specialism. As the research on women has moved from the margins to the confident centre of literary studies it has become rich in essays and monographs dealing with smaller groups of authors, with particular genres and with defined periods of literary production, reflecting the divisions of intellectual labour and development of expertise that are typical of the discipline of literary studies. Collections of essays that provide overviews within particular periods and genres do exist, but no published series has taken on the mapping of the field even within one language group or national culture.

A History of British Women's Writing is intended as just such a cartographic standard work. Its ambition is to provide, in ten volumes edited by leading experts in the field, and comprised of newly commissioned essays by specialist scholars, a clear and integrated picture of women's contribution to the world of letters within Great Britain from medieval times to the present. In taking on such a wide ranging project we were inspired by the founding, in 2003, of Chawton House Library, a UK registered charity with a unique collection of books focusing on women's writing in English from 1600 to 1830, set in the home and working estate of Jane Austen's brother.

JENNIE BATCHELOR
UNIVERSITY OF KENT

CORA KAPLAN
QUEEN MARY, UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

Acknowledgements

I am indebted to the General Editors of the series, Jennie Batchelor and Cora Kaplan, for inviting me to edit this volume and overseeing its progress with great insight, and to Paula Kennedy and Ben Doyle at Palgrave for their understanding, encouragement and patience from beginning to end. I wish to thank Magda Bergman, the departmental administrator for English at Anglia Ruskin and the library staff in the Cambridge University and Anglia Ruskin University libraries (especially John Reynolds and Sue Gilmurray) for their unfailing helpfulness, courtesy, and efficiency. Joan Williams read the final typescript with scrupulous care. Many friends have given me support, encouragement, and incisive critique including Lucie Armitt, Sue Bruley, Chiara Briganti, Cathy Clay, Jane Dowson, Gill Davies, Mary Eagleton, Gill Frith, Faye Hammill, Clare Hanson, Mary Jacobs, Brenda Kirsch, Jan Montefiore, Claire Nicholson, Paulina Palmer, Emma Parker, Helen Phillips, Imelda Whelehan, and Gina Wisker. The book comes at the end of nearly two decades of full-time reading, research, and teaching in the Anglia Ruskin University English Department in Cambridge and benefiting from access to all the cultural riches that our beautiful city has to offer. I owe an incalculable debt to my colleagues at Anglia Ruskin past and present, most recently John Gardner, Colette Paul, Valerie Purton, Julia Swindells, Jeff Wallace, Tory Young, and Rowlie Wymer. Copyright permission for the use of Vanessa Bell's painting 'The Kitchen' on the front cover is by kind permission of Henrietta Garnett. The scholarly expertise, professionalism, and commitment of the contributors have made compiling this volume the pleasure and the privilege that it has been. We wish to dedicate it collectively to the memory of Julia Briggs, whose life and work have been an inspiration.

MARY JOANNOU
ANGLIA RUSKIN UNIVERSITY
CAMBRIDGE

Notes on the Contributors

Sophie Blanch is Lecturer in English Literature at the University of Surrey and formerly a British Academy Postdoctoral Fellow in English at the University of Sussex, where she organised an international conference, *Joking Apart: Gender, Literature & Modernity, 1850–Present*. She is editing a book of collected essays under the same title.

Kristin Bluemel is Professor of English at Monmouth University. She is author of *George Orwell and the Radical Eccentrics: Intermodernism in Literary London* (2004) and editor of *Intermodernism: Literary Culture in Twentieth-Century Britain* (2009).

Catherine Clay is Senior Lecturer in English at Nottingham Trent University. She is author of *British Women Writers 1914–1945: Professional Work and Friendship* (2006), and is currently working on a monograph about the feminist periodical *Time and Tide*.

Rebecca D'Monté is Senior Lecturer at the University of the West of England. She has published essays on Margaret Cavendish, April de Angelis, Judy Upton, Daphne du Maurier, Esther McCracken, and Dodie Smith. She has edited with Nicole Pohl *Female Communities 1600–1800: Literary Visions and Cultural Realities* (1999) and with Grama Saunders *Cool Britannia: British Political Drama in the 1990s* (2008).

Jane Dowson is Reader in Twentieth-Century Literature at De Montfort University. Her publications on women's poetry include *Women's Poetry of the 1930s* (1996), *Women, Modernism and British Poetry 1910–39* (2002), *A History of Twentieth-Century Women's Poetry* (co-authored with Alice Entwistle, 2005), and *The Cambridge Companion to Twentieth-Century British and Irish Women's Poetry* (2011).

Maud Ellmann is the Randy L. and Melvin R. Berlin Professor of the Development of the Novel in English at the University of Chicago. She has written on modernism and literary theory, particularly psychoanalysis and feminism. Her books include *The Hunger Artists: Starving, Writing and Imprisonment* (1993), *Elizabeth Bowen: The Shadow Across the Page* (2003), and *The Nets of Modernism: James, Woolf, Joyce, and Freud* (2010).

Jane Goldman is Reader in English Literature at the University of Glasgow, and a General Editor of the Cambridge University Press Edition of *The Writings of Virginia Woolf*, and volume editor of *To the Lighthouse* and of *A Room of One's Own*. She is author of *The Feminist Aesthetics of Virginia*

Woolf: Modernism, Post-Impressionism and the Politics of the Visual (1998) and co-editor of *Modernism: An Anthology of Sources and Documents* (1998). Her publications include *Modernism, 1910–1945: Image to Apocalypse* (2004) and *The Cambridge Introduction to Virginia Woolf* (2006).

Katie Gramich is Reader in English Literature at Cardiff University. She is the author of *Twentieth Century Women's Writing in Wales: Land, Gender, Belonging* (2007) and a monograph on the Welsh-language novelist and short story writer, *Kate Roberts* (2011).

Nicola Humble is Professor of English at Roehampton University and author of *The Feminine Middlebrow Novel 1920s to 1950s: Class, Domesticity and Bohemianism* (2001), *Cake: A Global History* (2010), and *Culinary Pleasures: Cook Books and the Transformation of British Food* (2005). She has co-edited, with Kimberley Reynolds, *Victorian Heroines: Representations of Femininity in Nineteenth-Century Literature and Art* (1993), and produced editions of *Mrs Beeton's Book of Household Management* (2000) and *Jane Austen's Persuasion* (1997).

Maroula Joannou is Professor of Literary History and Women's Writing at Anglia Ruskin University. Her publications include *'Ladies, Please Don't Smash These Windows': Women's Writing, Feminism and Social Change 1918–1938* (1995), *Contemporary Women's Writing: From the Golden Notebook to The Color Purple* (2000), and *Women's Writing, National and Cultural Identity: The Mobile Woman and the Migrant Voice, 1938–1962* (2012).

Cora Kaplan is an Honorary Professor in the School of English and Drama at Queen Mary, University of London, and is Professor Emerita of English at Southampton University. A General Editor of this series, her publications include *Genders* (with David Glover, 2000, 2009) and *Victoriana – Histories, Fictions, Criticism* (2007).

Deborah Longworth (née Parsons) is a Senior Lecturer at the University of Birmingham. She is the author of *Streetwalking the Metropolis: Women, the City and Modernity* (2000). She edits the journal *Modernist Cultures* with Andrzej Gasiorek and Michael Valdez Moses.

Gill Plain is Professor of English Literature and Popular Culture at St Andrews University. Her publications include *Women's Fiction of the Second World War: Gender, Power and Resistance* (1996), *Twentieth-Century Fiction: Gender, Sexuality and the Body* (2001), *Ian Rankin's Black and Blue: A Reader's Guide* (2002), and *John Mills and British Cinema: Masculinity, Identity and Nation* (2006). She has co-edited *A History of Feminist Literary Criticism* (2007).

Lisa Regan is a Lecturer in English Literature at the University of Liverpool. She is the editor of *Winifred Holtby, 'A Woman in Her Time': Critical Essays* (2010) and has just completed a monograph, *Winifred Holtby's Social Vision: 'Members One of Another'* (2012).

Bonnie Kime Scott is Professor Emerita of Women's Studies at San Diego State University and Professor Emerita of English at the University of Delaware. Her publications include the authored works, *In the Hollow of the Wave: Virginia Woolf and Modernist Uses of Nature* (2012) and *Refiguring Modernism* (1995), and the edited volumes, *Gender in Modernism: New Geographies, Complex Intersections* (2007) and *The Gender of Modernism* (1990).

Diana Wallace is Professor of English Literature at the University of Glamorgan. She is the author of *The Woman's Historical Novel: British Women Writers* (2005) and *Sisters and Rivals in British Women's Fiction 1914–39* (2000) and is currently completing a monograph entitled *Female Gothic Histories: Gender, History and the Gothic*.

Tory Young is a Senior Lecturer at Anglia Ruskin University and the author of *Studying English Literature: A Practical Guide* (2008) and *The Hours by Michael Cunningham* (2003). She co-edits the 20th–21st century section of *Literature Compass* with Laura Winkiel and is writing a monograph provisionally titled *Sex, Narrative and Postfeminism in Contemporary British Fiction*.

Chronology 1920–1945

Year	Events	Works
1918	End of the First World War. Votes for women over thirty. Liberal government under Lloyd George. School leaving age raised to fourteen.	Katherine Mansfield, <i>Prelude</i> ; Emma Orczy, <i>The Man in Grey</i> ; Marie Stopes, <i>Married Love</i> ; Rebecca West, <i>The Return of the Soldier</i> .
1919	The Versailles Treaty. Housing Act launches programme of council housing.	Elizabeth von Arnim, <i>Christopher and Columbus</i> ; Angela Brazil, <i>A Harum-Scarum Schoolgirl</i> ; Clemence Dane, <i>Legend</i> ; E.M. Delafield, <i>Consequences</i> ; Leonora Eyles, <i>Margaret Protests</i> ; Cicely Hamilton, <i>William – an Englishman</i> ; E.M. Hull, <i>The Sheik</i> ; Storm Jameson, <i>The Pot Boils</i> ; Gertrude Jennings <i>Waiting for the Bus</i> ; Hope Mirrlees, <i>Paris and Madeleine</i> ; Dorothy Richardson, <i>The Tunnel</i> and <i>Interim</i> ; May Sinclair, <i>Mary Olivier: A Life</i> ; Mary Augusta Ward, <i>Cousin Philip</i> ; Edith Wharton, <i>The Marne</i> ; Virginia Woolf, <i>Night and Day</i> .
1920	The League of Nations founded. Prohibition of alcohol in the United States.	Catherine Carswell, <i>Open the Door!</i> ; Agatha Christie, <i>The Mysterious Affair at Styles</i> ; O. Douglas, <i>Penny Plain</i> ; Vernon Lee, <i>Satan the Waster</i> ; Rose Macaulay, <i>Potterism</i> ; Katherine Mansfield, <i>Bliss and Other Stories</i> ; Dorothy Richardson, <i>Interim</i> ; May Sinclair, <i>The Romantic</i> .
1921	Marie Stopes opens first family planning clinic in Holloway, London.	Elizabeth von Arnim, <i>Vera</i> ; Clemence Dane, <i>A Bill of Divorcement</i> ; Georgette Heyer, <i>The Black Moth</i> ; Sheila Kaye Smith, <i>Joanna Godden</i> ; Dorothy Richardson, <i>Deadlock</i> ; Virginia Woolf, <i>Monday or Tuesday</i> .
1922	The BBC established. Bonar Law Ministry. Mussolini comes to power in Italy. Gandhi imprisoned in India. Insulin discovered.	Elizabeth von Arnim, <i>The Enchanted April</i> ; Catherine Carswell, <i>The Camomile</i> ; Richmal Crompton, <i>Just-William</i> ; Mary Agnes Hamilton, <i>Follow My Leader</i> ; Rose Macaulay, <i>Mystery at Geneva</i> ; Katherine Mansfield, <i>The Garden Party and Other Stories</i> ; May Sinclair, <i>Life and Death of Harriett Frean</i> ; Edith Sitwell, <i>Façade</i> ; E.H. Young, <i>The Bridge Dividing</i> ; Rebecca West, <i>The Judge</i> ; Virginia Woolf, <i>Jacob's Room</i> .
1923	End of Civil War in Ireland. Baldwin's first ministry.	Winifred Holtby, <i>Anderby Wold</i> ; Vera Brittain, <i>The Dark Tide</i> ; Sheila Kaye-Smith, <i>The End of the House of Alard</i> ; Rose Macaulay, <i>Told by an Idiot</i> ; Katherine Mansfield, <i>The Dove's Nest and Other Stories</i> ; Naomi Mitchison, <i>The Conquered</i> ; Mollie Panter-Downes, <i>The Shoreless Sea</i> ; Dorothy Richardson, <i>Revolving Lights</i> .

- 1924 First minority Labour Government. Baldwin's second ministry. Empire Exhibition. Vera Brittain, *Not Without Honour*; Clemence Dane, *Wandering Stars*; Radclyffe Hall, *The Unlit Lamp*; Cicely Hamilton, *The Old Adam*; Winifred Holtby, *The Crowded Street*; Margaret Kennedy, *The Constant Nymph*; Rose Macaulay, *Orphan Island*; Katherine Mansfield, *Something Childish and Other Stories*; F.M. Mayor, *The Rector's Daughter*; Hope Mirrlees, *The Counterplot*; Eleanor Rathbone, *The Disinherited Family*; Mary Webb, *Precious Bane*.
- 1925 Hitler, *Mein Kampf*. Stella Benson, *The Little World*; D.K. Broster, *The Flight of the Heron*; Elinor Brent Dyer, *School at the Chalet*; Ethel Carnie Holdsworth, *This Slavery*; Ethel Mannin, *Sounding Brass*; Naomi Mitchison, *Cloud Cuckoo Land*; Mollie Panter-Downes, *The Chase*; Dorothy Richardson, *The Trap*; Dora Russell, *Hypatia*; E.H. Young, *William*; Virginia Woolf, *Mrs Dalloway* and *The Common Reader*.
- 1926 The General Strike and Miners' Lock-out. Stella Benson, *Goodbye, Stranger*; H.D., *Palimpsest*; Charlotte Haldane, *Man's World*; Georgette Heyer, *These Old Shades*; Rose Macaulay, *Crewe Train*; Olive Schreiner, *From Man to Man*; Hope Mirrlees, *Lud-in-the-Mist*; Sylvia Thompson, *The Hounds of Spring*; Sylvia Townsend Warner, *Lolly Willowes*.
- 1927 Execution of Sacco and Vanzetti. Elizabeth Bowen, *The Hotel*; D.K. Broster, *The Gleam in the North*; Winifred Holtby, *The Land of Green Ginger*; Storm Jameson, *The Lovely Ship*; Rosamond Lehmann, *Dusty Answer*; Jean Rhys, *The Left Bank*; Dorothy Richardson, *Oberland*; May Sinclair, *The Allingham's*; Sylvia Townsend Warner, *Mr Fortune's Maggot*; Amabel Williams-Ellis, *The Wall of Glass*; Virginia Woolf, *To the Lighthouse*; E.H. Young, *The Vicar's Daughter*.
- 1928 Votes for women over twenty-one. Discovery of penicillin. Mary Butts, *Armed with Madness*; Radclyffe Hall, *The Well of Loneliness*; Marie Carmichael, *Love's Creation*; Jean Rhys, *Postures*; E. Arnot Robertson, *Cullum*; Nan Shepherd, *The Quarry Wood*; Ray Strachey, *The Cause*; Rebecca West, *The Strange Necessity*; Virginia Woolf, *Orlando: A Biography*.
- 1929 Wall Street Crash. Marriage age raised to sixteen for both sexes. Mary Borden, *The Forbidden Zone*; Elizabeth Bowen, *The Last September*; Ivy Compton-Burnett, *Brothers and Sisters*; Helen Ferguson, *A Charmed Circle*; Inez Holden, *Sweet Charlatan*; Nora James, *Sleeveless Errand*; Fryniwyd Tennyson Jesse, *The Lacquer Lady*; Olive Schreiner, *Undine*; Sylvia Townsend Warner, *The True Heart*; Rebecca West, *Harriet Hume*; Ellen Wilkinson, *Clash*; Virginia Woolf, *A Room of One's Own*.

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Continued

Year	Events	Works
1930	Gandhi starts civil disobedience campaign in India.	Agatha Christie, <i>The Murder at the Vicarage</i> ; E.M. Delafield, <i>Diary of a Provincial Lady</i> ; Rosamond Lehmann, <i>A Note in Music</i> ; Una Marson, <i>Tropical Reveries</i> ; Olive Moore, <i>Spleen</i> ; Jean Rhys, <i>After Leaving Mr Mackenzie</i> ; Vita Sackville-West, <i>The Edwardians</i> ; Dorothy Sayers, <i>Strong Poison</i> ; Nan Shepherd, <i>The Weatherhouse</i> ; Helen Smith, <i>Not So Quiet....: Stepdaughters of War</i> ; E.H. Young, <i>Miss Mole</i> .
1931	World economic crisis. Nearly 3 million unemployed in Britain. National government under Ramsay Macdonald. Means Test introduced for the unemployed. Japanese invade Manchuria.	Stella Benson, <i>Tobit Transplanted</i> ; Elizabeth Bowen, <i>Friends and Relations</i> ; M.J. Farrell, <i>Mad Puppetstown</i> ; Rachel Ferguson, <i>The Brontës Went to Woolworths</i> ; Winifred Holtby, <i>Poor Caroline</i> ; Sheila Kaye-Smith, <i>The History of Susan Spray, The Female Preacher</i> ; Naomi Mitchison, <i>The Corn King and the Spring Queen</i> ; Willa Muir, <i>Imagined Corners</i> ; Kate O'Brien, <i>Without My Cloak</i> ; Dorothy Richardson, <i>Dawn's Left Hand</i> ; Vita Sackville-West, <i>All Passion Spent</i> ; Dodie Smith, <i>Autumn Crocus</i> ; G.B. Stern, <i>The Man Who Pays the Piper</i> ; Virginia Woolf, <i>The Waves</i> .
1932	First regular TV broadcast, Gandhi interned. Mosley founds British Union of Fascists.	Phyllis Bentley, <i>Inheritance</i> ; Mary Butts, <i>Death of Felicity Taverner</i> ; Elizabeth Bowen, <i>To the North</i> ; Margiad Evans, <i>Country Dance</i> ; Stella Gibbons, <i>Cold Comfort Farm</i> ; Rosamond Lehmann, <i>Invitation to the Waltz</i> ; Olive Moore, <i>Fugue</i> ; Julia Strachey, <i>Cheerful Weather for the Wedding</i> ; Dorothy Whipple, <i>Greenbanks</i> ; Ellen Wilkinson, <i>The Division Bell Mystery</i> ; Virginia Woolf, <i>The Common Reader: Second Series</i> .
1933	New Deal in the United States. Reichstag fire in Germany and Hitler takes power.	Margery Allingham, <i>Sweet Danger</i> ; Vera Brittain, <i>Testament of Youth</i> ; Elizabeth Cambridge, <i>Hostages to Fortune</i> ; Margiad Evans, <i>The Wooden Doctor</i> ; Inez Holden, <i>Friend of the Family</i> ; Winifred Holtby, <i>Mandoa, Mandoa!</i> and <i>The Astonishing Island</i> ; Storm Jameson, <i>Women Against Men</i> ; Ethel Mannin, <i>Venetian Blinds</i> ; Una Marson, <i>At What a Price</i> ; Nancy Brysson Morrison, <i>The Gowk Storm</i> ; Willa Muir, <i>Mrs Ritchie</i> ; E. Arnot Robertson, <i>Ordinary Families</i> ; Angela Thirkell, <i>High Risings</i> ; Antonia White, <i>Frost in May</i> ; Virginia Woolf, <i>Flush: A Biography</i> .
1934	Olympia Exhibition. Left-wing protesters violently ejected by Mosley's blackshirts. Stalin's purges.	Dot Allan, <i>Hunger March</i> ; Muriel Box, <i>Peace in Our Time</i> ; Sally Carson, <i>Crooked Cross</i> ; Nancy Cunard, <i>Negro</i> ; Winifred Holtby, <i>Women and a Changing Civilization</i> and <i>Truth is Not Sober</i> ; Storm Jameson, <i>Company Parade</i> ; Fryniwyd Tennyson Jesse, <i>A Pin to See the Peepshow</i> ; Kate O'Brien, <i>The Ante Room</i> ; Jean Rhys, <i>Voyage in the Dark</i> ; Dorothy Whipple, <i>They Knew Mr Knight</i> ; E.H. Young, <i>The Curate's Wife</i> .

- 1935 Italy invades Abyssinia. Baldwin leads national government. Invention of nylon (first fully synthetic fabric). Baldwin's third ministry. Invention of radar. Elizabeth Bowen, *The House in Paris*; Muriel Box, *Angels of War*; Mary Butts, *Scenes from the Life of Cleopatra*; Lettice Cooper, *We Have Come to a Country*; Victoria Cross, *Martha Brown, M.P.*; Georgette Heyer, *Regency Buck*; Storm Jameson, *Love in Winter*; Ethel Mannin, *Cactus*; Naomi Mitchison, *We Have Been Warned*; Dorothy Richardson, *Clear Horizon*; Dorothy Sayers, *Gaudy Night*; Rebecca West, *The Harsh Voice*.
- 1936 Death of George V. Accession and abdication of Edward VIII. Berlin Olympics. Spanish Civil War. Germany occupies Rhineland. Jarrow Hunger March. Battle of Cable Street in East End of London. Valentine Ackland, *Country Conditions*; Phyllis Bentley, *Freedom, Farewell!*; Sarah Champion, *Duet for Female Voices*; Lettice Cooper, *The New House*; Daphne du Maurier, *Jamaica Inn*; Winifred Holtby, *South Riding*; Naomi Jacobs, *Barren Metal*; Storm Jameson, *In The Second Year*; Rosamond Lehmann, *The Weather in the Streets*; Irene Rathbone, *They Call it Peace*; Kate O'Brien, *Mary Lavelle*; Kate Roberts, *Feet in Chains*; Stevie Smith, *Novel on Yellow Paper*; Noel Streatfeild, *Ballet Shoes*; Josephine Tey, *A Shilling for Candles*; Hilda Vaughan, *Harvest Home*; Sylvia Townsend Warner, *Summer Will Show*.
- 1937 Neville Chamberlain becomes PM. Guernica air raid. Divorce legalized on grounds of desertion and insanity. Second Sino-Japanese war. Ruth Adam, *War on Saturday Week*; Phyllis Bottome, *The Mortal Storm*; Katharine Burdekin, *Swastika Night*; Carmel Haden-Guest, *Give Us Conflict*; Georgette Heyer, *An Infamous Army*; Winifred Holtby, *Pavements at Anderby*; Olivia Manning, *The Wind Changes*; Freya Stark, *Baghdad Sketches*; Rosalind Wade, *Treasure in Heaven*; Virginia Woolf, *The Years*.
- 1938 Dr Alex Bourne acquitted of performing an illegal abortion. Germany annexes Austria. Munich crisis. Invention of ballpoint pen. Margery Allingham, *The Fashion in Shrouds*; Elizabeth Bowen, *The Death of the Heart*; Lettice Cooper, *National Provincial*; Catherine Gavin, *Clyde Valley*; Daphne Du Maurier, *Rebecca*; Kate O'Brien, *Pray for the Wanderer*; Dorothy Richardson, *Pilgrimage* (including *Dimple Hill*); Dodie Smith, *Dear Octopus*; Stevie Smith, *Over The Frontier*; Angela Thirkell, *Pomfret Towers*; Sylvia Townsend Warner, *After the Death of Don Juan*; Winifred Watson, *Miss Pettigrew Lives for a Day*; Virginia Woolf, *Three Guineas*.
- 1939 Hitler invades Czechoslovakia and Poland. Start of the Second World War. Mary Borden, *Passport for a Girl*; Clemence Dane, *The Arrogant History of White Ben*; Pamela Frankau, *The Devil We Know*; Rumer Godden, *Black Narcissus*; Elspeth Huxley, *Red Strangers*; Rosamond Lehmann, *No More Music*; Nancy Mitford, *Pigeon Pie*; Jean Rhys, *Good Morning, Midnight*; Mary Renault, *Purposes of Love*; Jan Struther, *Mrs Miniver*; Flora Thompson, *Lark Rise to Candleford*; Dorothy Whipple, *The Priory*.

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| 1940 | Dunkirk. London Blitz. Battle of Britain. Surrender of Belgium and Holland. Germans enter Paris. | Angela Brazil, <i>The New School at Scawdale</i> ; Enid Blyton, <i>The Naughtiest Girl in the School</i> ; Vera Brittain, <i>Testament of Friendship</i> ; Georgette Heyer, <i>The Corinthian</i> and <i>The Spanish Bride</i> ; Mollie Panter-Downes, <i>Letter from England</i> ; Storm Jameson, <i>Cousin Honoré</i> and <i>Europe to Let</i> ; Pamela Hansford Johnson, <i>Too Dear for My Possessing</i> ; Anna Kavan, <i>Asylum Piece</i> ; Freya Stark, <i>A Winter in Arabia</i> ; Virginia Woolf, <i>Roger Fry: A Biography</i> . |
| 1941 | Germany invades Russia. Japanese bomb Pearl Harbour. United States enters the war. Conscription of 'mobile women'. | Margery Allingham, <i>Traitor's Purse</i> ; Phyllis Bottome, <i>London Pride</i> ; Elizabeth Bowen, <i>Look at all Those Roses</i> ; Ivy Compton-Burnett, <i>Parents and Children</i> ; Inez Holden, <i>Night Shift</i> ; Margaret Irwin, <i>The Gay Galliard</i> ; Daphne du Maurier, <i>Frenchman's Creek</i> ; Ethel Mannin, <i>Red Rose</i> ; Ngaio Marsh, <i>Surfeit of Lampreys</i> ; Betty Miller, <i>Farewell Leicester Square</i> ; Kate O'Brien, <i>The Land of Spices</i> ; Rebecca West, <i>Black Lamb and Grey Falcon</i> ; Virginia Woolf, <i>Between the Acts</i> . |
| 1942 | The Beveridge Report. Fall of Singapore. North African campaign and Battle of El Alamein. | Enid Blyton, <i>Five on a Treasure Island</i> ; Monica Dickens, <i>One Pair of Feet</i> ; Rumer Godden, <i>Breakfast with the Nikolides</i> . |
| 1943 | Allied landing in Sicily. Italy surrenders. Men and women at Rolls Royce factory strike for equal pay. | Phyllis Bottome, <i>Within the Cup</i> ; Monica Dickens, <i>The Fancy</i> ; Storm Jameson, <i>Cloudless May</i> ; Mary Lavin, <i>Tales from Bective Bridge</i> ; Ethel Mannin, <i>No More Mimosa</i> ; Kate O'Brien, <i>The Last of Summer</i> ; Mary Renault, <i>The Friendly Young Ladies</i> ; Dorothy Whipple, <i>They Were Sisters</i> . |
| 1944 | Butler Education Act. D-Day. Allied Normandy landings. Liberation of Paris. | Daphne du Maurier, <i>The Years Between</i> ; Georgette Heyer, <i>Friday's Child</i> ; Inez Holden, <i>There's No Story There</i> ; Diana Murray Hill, <i>Ladies May Now Leave their Machines</i> ; Margaret Irwin, <i>Young Bess</i> ; Magdalen King-Hall, <i>Life and Death of the Wicked Lady Skelton</i> ; Marghanita Laski, <i>Love on the Supertax</i> ; Rosamond Lehmann, <i>The Ballad and the Source</i> ; Esther McCracken, <i>Living Room and No Medals</i> . |
| 1945 | Bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Labour landslide in General Election. Family Allowances introduced. V-E Day. | Margery Allingham, <i>Coroner's Pidgin</i> ; Elizabeth Bowen, <i>The Demon Lover</i> ; Storm Jameson, <i>The Journal of Mary Hervey Russell</i> ; Ethel Mannin, <i>Comrade O Comrade</i> ; Katherine Mansfield, <i>The Collected Stories</i> ; Betty Miller, <i>On the Side of the Angels</i> ; Nancy Mitford, <i>The Pursuit of Love</i> ; Noel Streatfeild, <i>Saplings</i> ; Lesley Storm, <i>Great Day</i> ; Elizabeth Taylor, <i>At Mrs Lippincote's</i> . |
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