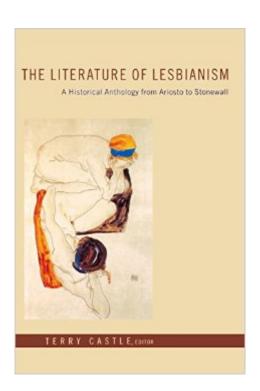
The book was found

The Literature Of Lesbianism





Synopsis

Since the Renaissance, countless writers have been magnetized by the notion of love between women. From Renaissance love poems to twentieth-century novels, plays, and short stories, The Literature of Lesbianism brings together hundreds of literary works on the subject of female homosexuality. This is not an anthology of "lesbian writers." Nor is it simply a one-sided compendium of "positive" or "negative" images of lesbian experience. Terry Castle explores the emergence and transformation of the "idea of lesbianism": its conceptual origins and how it has been transmitted, transformed, and collectively embellished over the past five centuries. Both male and female authors are represented here and they display an astonishing and often unpredictable range of attitudes. Some excoriate female same-sex love; some eulogize it. Some are salacious or satiric; others sympathetic and confessional. Yet what comes across everywhere is just how visiblea •as a literary themea •Sapphic love has always been in Western literature. As Castle demonstrates, it is hardly the taboo or forbidden topic we sometimes assume it to be, but has in fact been a central preoccupation for many of our greatest writers, past and present. Beginning with an excerpt from Ariosto's comic epic poem, Orlando Furioso, the anthology progresses chronologically through the next five centuries, presenting selections from Shakespeare, John Donne, Katherine Philips, Aphra Behn, Sor Juana Ines de la Cruz, Alexander Pope, the Marquis de Sade, Samuel Taylor Coleridge, Charlotte Brontë, Emily Dickinson, Guy de Maupassant, Henry James, Willa Cather, Virginia Woolf, Ernest Hemingway, Nella Larsen, Colette, and Graham Greene, among many others. It also includes some anonymous worksâ *several published here for the first timeâ *as well as numerous translations from the writers of antiquity, such as Sappho, Ovid, Martial, and Juvenal, whose rediscovery in the early Renaissance helped shape subsequent Western literary representations of female homosexuality.

Book Information

Hardcover: 1039 pages

Publisher: Columbia University Press; 1st edition (August 15, 2003)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0231125100

ISBN-13: 978-0231125109

Product Dimensions: 7 x 2.3 x 10 inches

Shipping Weight: 4.9 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars Â See all reviews (3 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,605,713 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #280 in Books > Gay & Lesbian > Literature & Fiction > Literary Criticism #588 in Books > Textbooks > Social Sciences > Gay & Lesbian Studies #845 in Books > Gay & Lesbian > History

Customer Reviews

This book is amazing. It is over 1000 pages long. It contains writings by male and female authors since the Renaissance. Far from being about a minority sexual preference, this anthology shows that many major authors have written about lesbianism, some to the point of obsession. I highly recommend it to any reader, lesbian, gay, straight, female or male, who is interested in a new way of looking at literary history.

This fat, heavy paperback is a treasure-trove of true literature. Nothing pulpy, trashy, or even trendy about it, this book is jam-packed with quality excerpts, full-length pieces, and poems all of which come together to provide a valuable historical look into the subject matter. Personally, I found the pieces written by men to be the least appealing; some of them smack, if ever-so-slightly, of that notorious voyeurism that so many men have for two women. I would still have to say that they were aptly chosen for this book, every piece has its purpose in rounding out the whole. I highly recommend this book for lovers of true literature, and for anyone wanting to see an excellent historical snapshot of the subject matter through many genres from the sixteenth century to the present time. Be prepared, the excerpts will whet your appetite to read the full piece in many cases. I have since gone on a reading odyssey of the Vita Sackville-West/Violet Trefusis [tragic] love story after reading several excerpts, including one from Orlando by Virginia Wolff (who also had an affair with Vita, which pales in light of the Trefusis story.) Excerpts from all three - Vita, Violet, and Virginia - are here. This collection is worth every penny, every page. Highly recommend it!

This book is incredibly insightful into our history as gay women. It's a rare perspective to look specifically at gay women rather than men and the results are surprising. Knowledge increases even as the 1700s pass--which reminded me that gay rights is a much older issue than stonewall. It's unbiased, showing everything from hilariously incorrect indictments of lesbianism to beautiful love stories to raunchy erotica. Overall, this is the most comprehensive look into lesbian history I've ever read.

Download to continue reading...

The Literature of Lesbianism AIDS Literature and Gay Identity: The Literature of Loss (Routledge

Studies in Twentieth-Century Literature) Guide to Law and Literature for Teachers, Students, and Researchers: Companion Text to Literature and Legal Problem Solving: Law and Literature As Ethical Discourse The Heath Anthology of American Literature: Volume A (Heath Anthology of American Literature Series) Film and Literature: A Comparative Approach to Adaptation (Studies in Comparative Literature: No. 1) The Broadview Anthology of British Literature Volume 4: The Age of Romanticism - Second Edition (Broadview Anthology of British Literature - Second Edition) The Broadview Anthology of British Literature: Concise Volume B - Second Edition (Broadview Anthology of British Literature - Second Edition) Macbeth SparkNotes Literature Guide (SparkNotes Literature Guide Series) The Oedipus Plays: Antigone, Oedipus Rex, Oedipus at Colonus SparkNotes Literature Guide (SparkNotes Literature Guide Series) Beowulf SparkNotes Literature Guide (SparkNotes Literature Guide Series) Poe's Short Stories (SparkNotes Literature Guide) (SparkNotes Literature Guide Series) The Outsiders (SparkNotes Literature Guide) (SparkNotes Literature Guide Series) Literature for Composition: An Introduction to Literature (10th Edition) Contemporary American Literature: (1945-Present) (Backgrounds to American Literature) The Columbia Anthology of Modern Chinese Literature (Modern Asian Literature Series) Born Translated: The Contemporary Novel in an Age of World Literature (Literature Now) Contemporary Australian Literature: A World Not Yet Dead (Sydney studies in Australian literature) The Norton Anthology of English Literature (Ninth Edition) (Vol. B) (Norton Anthology of English Literature (Paperback)) The Cambridge Introduction to Russian Literature (Cambridge Introductions to Literature) Sovereign Power and the Enlightenment: Eighteenth-Century Literature and the Problem of the Political (Transits: Literature, Thought & Culture, 1650-1850)

Dmca