

the last of the wine by mary renault

The Last of the Wine by Mary Renault: A Timeless Tale of Ancient Greece

the last of the wine by mary renault is a captivating historical novel that transports readers deep into the heart of ancient Athens during the Peloponnesian War. Renowned for her meticulous research and vivid storytelling, Mary Renault crafts a narrative that is as much about the personal journey of its protagonist as it is about the political and cultural upheavals of the time. This novel not only explores the complexities of love, friendship, and loyalty but also offers a richly detailed portrait of classical Greek society, making it a must-read for lovers of historical fiction and classical history alike.

Exploring the Plot and Setting of The Last of the Wine by Mary Renault

Set against the backdrop of one of the most turbulent periods in Greek history, *The Last of the Wine* by Mary Renault follows the life of Alexias, a young Athenian aristocrat. The story begins in a time of relative peace but soon unfolds into the chaos and devastation brought on by the long-lasting Peloponnesian War between Athens and Sparta. Through Alexias's eyes, readers experience the glory and tragedy of Athens as well as the philosophical and cultural richness that defined this era.

A Journey Through Ancient Athens

What makes *The Last of the Wine* by Mary Renault exceptional is its immersive portrayal of Athenian life. The novel delves into the daily realities of its citizens, from the intellectual debates in the agora to the rigorous training of the ephebes—young men preparing for citizenship. Renault's attention to historical detail shines through descriptions of architecture, customs, and social structures, painting a vivid picture that feels authentic and alive.

The Peloponnesian War as More Than Backdrop

While many historical novels use war merely as a setting, Mary Renault makes the Peloponnesian War a driving force in her narrative. The conflict shapes the destinies of characters, tests their values, and forces difficult choices. Through the turmoil, the novel explores themes of honor, sacrifice, and the fragility of civilization, all while maintaining a deeply personal focus on Alexias's growth and relationships.

Characters and Themes in The Last of the Wine by Mary Renault

At the heart of *The Last of the Wine* by Mary Renault is a cast of well-drawn characters whose lives intersect with the sweeping historical events. Alexias, the protagonist, is a complex figure whose experiences of love, friendship, and loss resonate deeply with readers.

Alexias: The Everyman and the Hero

Alexias embodies the tensions of his time—caught between tradition and change, duty and desire. His journey from a privileged youth to a man shaped by the horrors of war and political strife highlights the novel's exploration of maturity and resilience. Readers appreciate how Renault portrays Alexias with empathy, making his struggles and triumphs feel universal and relatable.

Love, Friendship, and Loyalty

The relationships in *The Last of the Wine* by Mary Renault are nuanced and compelling. The novel examines the nature of male friendship and love in ancient Greece, including the socially accepted practice of pederasty, which is integral to the bond between Alexias and his mentor, Lysis. Renault approaches these themes with sensitivity and depth, providing insight into the era's values while also inviting modern readers to reflect on the timeless nature of human connection.

The Role of Women and Social Norms

Although the story centers largely on male characters, *The Last of the Wine* by Mary Renault does not neglect the roles and limitations faced by women in ancient Greece. Female characters, though often restricted by societal expectations, are portrayed with strength and complexity, adding layers to the novel's depiction of Athenian life.

Mary Renault's Writing Style and Historical Accuracy

One of the reasons *The Last of the Wine* by Mary Renault remains a beloved classic is Renault's elegant prose and commitment to authenticity. Her writing style balances descriptive richness with narrative momentum, making the novel both educational and engaging.

Immersive Historical Detail

Renault's extensive research is evident throughout the novel. From political debates to military tactics and philosophical discussions, every aspect of ancient Greek culture is rendered with precision. This historical accuracy not only enriches the story but also helps readers gain a deeper understanding of the period's complexities.

Accessible and Poetic Language

Despite the weighty historical content, Renault writes in a way that is accessible and often lyrical. Her ability to evoke atmosphere and emotion invites readers to fully immerse themselves in the world she recreates. This balance between scholarship and storytelling is a hallmark of her work.

Why The Last of the Wine by Mary Renault Continues to Resonate

More than half a century after its publication, *The Last of the Wine* by Mary Renault continues to captivate readers around the world. Its enduring appeal lies in its timeless themes and masterful storytelling.

Bridging Past and Present

By exploring universal themes such as love, honor, and the search for identity, Renault connects ancient history with contemporary human experience. This bridge makes the novel relevant for modern audiences, encouraging reflection on how much has changed—and how much remains the same.

Educational Value for History Enthusiasts

For readers fascinated by ancient Greece, *The Last of the Wine* by Mary Renault offers a vivid and accurate portrayal that complements academic study. It serves as an engaging introduction to the era's culture, politics, and social life, providing context that textbooks alone may not fully capture.

Encouraging Empathy Through Historical Fiction

Renault's nuanced characters and moral dilemmas invite readers to empathize

with people from a vastly different time, fostering a greater appreciation for history as a tapestry of human stories rather than just dates and events.

Tips for Readers Diving into The Last of the Wine by Mary Renault

If you're planning to read *The Last of the Wine* by Mary Renault, here are a few suggestions to enhance your experience:

- **Familiarize Yourself with Ancient Greek History:** A basic understanding of the Peloponnesian War and Athenian society will enrich your reading.
- **Take Note of Cultural Practices:** Pay attention to the social customs and philosophical ideas presented, as they are key to understanding character motivations.
- **Read Slowly and Reflectively:** The novel's detailed descriptions and complex themes benefit from a thoughtful pace, allowing you to savor Renault's prose and insights.
- **Explore Supplementary Materials:** Consider reading historical essays or watching documentaries about ancient Greece to deepen your appreciation.

The Last of the Wine by Mary Renault stands as a luminous example of historical fiction done right—combining rich narrative, compelling characters, and scholarly precision. Whether you're a history buff or simply in search of a gripping story set in a fascinating era, this novel offers a memorable journey into the soul of ancient Athens.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the main theme of 'The Last of the Wine' by Mary Renault?

'The Last of the Wine' primarily explores themes of love, friendship, and loyalty set against the backdrop of the Peloponnesian War in ancient Athens.

Who are the central characters in 'The Last of the Wine'?

The central characters are Alexias, a young Athenian nobleman, and Lysis, his beloved companion and student, whose relationship is central to the novel.

How does Mary Renault portray ancient Athens in 'The Last of the Wine'?

Mary Renault vividly portrays ancient Athens with rich historical detail, capturing its political turmoil, cultural practices, and social dynamics during the Peloponnesian War.

Is 'The Last of the Wine' based on true historical events?

Yes, the novel is set during the Peloponnesian War and incorporates real historical events and figures, blending fact with fiction to create a compelling narrative.

What role does homosexuality play in 'The Last of the Wine'?

Homosexuality is depicted as a natural and accepted part of ancient Athenian society, with the relationship between Alexias and Lysis central to the story's exploration of love and identity.

Why is 'The Last of the Wine' considered a significant work in historical fiction?

'The Last of the Wine' is acclaimed for its accurate historical research, complex characters, and sensitive treatment of ancient Greek culture, making it a landmark novel in historical fiction.

Additional Resources

The Last of the Wine by Mary Renault: A Profound Exploration of Love and War in Ancient Greece

the last of the wine by mary renaudt stands as a seminal work in historical fiction, renowned for its intricate portrayal of ancient Greece through a compelling narrative lens. First published in 1956, this novel delves into the turbulent times of classical Athens during the Peloponnesian War, weaving together themes of love, loyalty, and the clash of ideals. Mary Renault's meticulous research and vivid storytelling transform what might have been a standard historical tale into a profound exploration of human relationships amid societal upheaval.

In-depth Analysis of The Last of the Wine by

Mary Renault

Mary Renault's novel is a remarkable fusion of historical accuracy and literary artistry. At its core, *The Last of the Wine* by Mary Renault is a coming-of-age story that follows the protagonist, Alexias, a young Athenian aristocrat, as he navigates the complexities of love, friendship, and political conflict. Renault's portrayal of Alexias is nuanced, blending youthful idealism with the harsh realities of war and societal expectation.

The novel is set against the backdrop of the Peloponnesian War (431–404 BC), a defining conflict between Athens and Sparta. Renault's depiction of this period is not merely a setting but a living, breathing element that shapes the characters' destinies. Through Alexias's eyes, readers gain insight into the cultural and philosophical milieu of Athens, including the significance of the gymnasium, philosophical debates, and the role of pederastic relationships in Greek society—topics that Renault approaches with sensitivity and depth.

Historical Context and Authenticity

One of the standout features of *The Last of the Wine* by Mary Renault is its historical authenticity. Renault was known for her dedication to research, and this novel is no exception. She painstakingly reconstructs the social and political landscape of 5th-century BC Athens, drawing on classical sources to ensure accuracy. This commitment enhances the immersive quality of the narrative, allowing readers to experience the era's complexities firsthand.

The novel also explores the tension between Athens and Sparta, not only as a backdrop but as a critical influence on the characters' lives. The Spartans are presented not as mere antagonists but as a contrasting culture, highlighting different values and societal structures. This nuanced portrayal adds depth to the story and challenges simplistic historical interpretations.

Character Development and Themes

At the heart of *The Last of the Wine* by Mary Renault is the relationship between Alexias and Lysis, his beloved companion. Their bond exemplifies the idealized form of love celebrated in classical Greece, yet Renault does not shy away from depicting the emotional complexities involved. The narrative explores themes of loyalty, sacrifice, and the pursuit of virtue, reflecting the philosophical ideals of the time.

Renault's characters are multi-dimensional. Alexias embodies both the intellectual curiosity and the physical bravery admired in Athenian youth, while Lysis represents steadfastness and moral strength. The novel also features a rich supporting cast, including historical figures like Socrates,

who add layers of philosophical inquiry and social commentary.

Literary Style and Narrative Techniques

Mary Renault's prose in *The Last of the Wine* is characterized by clarity and elegance, with a narrative pace that balances contemplative passages and action sequences. The first-person perspective allows readers intimate access to Alexias's thoughts and feelings, creating a strong emotional connection.

The novel's structure mirrors the progression of Alexias's life, from his education in the gymnasium to his participation in the war. This chronological approach aids in understanding the protagonist's development and the evolving political landscape. Renault's use of vivid descriptions and cultural details enriches the storytelling without overwhelming the reader.

Comparisons with Other Works by Mary Renault

Compared to Renault's later works, such as *The King Must Die* and *The Persian Boy*, *The Last of the Wine* by Mary Renault is more focused on the democratic Athens of the 5th century BC rather than the earlier Mycenaean period or the Persian Empire. While all her novels exhibit a deep engagement with Greek history, *The Last of the Wine* stands out for its intimate portrayal of everyday life and personal relationships during wartime.

Renault's exploration of homoerotic love, a recurring theme in her oeuvre, is particularly prominent here, depicted with a naturalism and respect that was groundbreaking at the time of publication. This thematic choice contributes to the novel's enduring relevance and appeal among readers interested in LGBTQ+ historical narratives.

Thematic Elements Explored in *The Last of the Wine* by Mary Renault

- **War and Its Impact:** The novel examines how the Peloponnesian War disrupts lives and reshapes identities, highlighting the cost of conflict on individuals and society.
- **Philosophy and Ethics:** Through interactions with figures like Socrates, the narrative engages with questions about virtue, justice, and the nature of the good life.
- **Love and Friendship:** The depiction of Alexias and Lysis's relationship offers a nuanced view of ancient Greek notions of love, loyalty, and mentorship.

- **Social Structures:** The novel provides insight into the roles of citizenship, education, and family in Athenian society.

Reception and Legacy

Since its release, *The Last of the Wine* by Mary Renault has garnered critical acclaim for its rich historical detail and emotionally resonant storytelling. It has been praised for opening a window into a pivotal era of Western civilization, making ancient Greece accessible and relatable to modern audiences.

The novel's frank and respectful portrayal of same-sex relationships was particularly notable during the mid-20th century, contributing to its status as a pioneering work in queer historical fiction. Its influence can be traced in contemporary literature that seeks to explore marginalized voices within historical contexts.

Moreover, *The Last of the Wine* by Mary Renault remains a popular choice for readers interested in historical novels that combine scholarly rigor with compelling narrative. Its inclusion in academic discussions about historical fiction and LGBTQ+ literature underscores its lasting importance.

Pros and Cons

- **Pros:** Exceptional historical research; richly developed characters; sensitive treatment of complex themes; immersive depiction of ancient Athens.
- **Cons:** The detailed historical context may be dense for casual readers; the pacing can feel slow in parts due to introspective sections.

The novel's strengths lie in its ability to educate and engage simultaneously, though some readers seeking fast-paced action might find its methodical approach less appealing.

The Last of the Wine by Mary Renault endures as a testament to the power of historical fiction to illuminate the past while addressing timeless human experiences. Through Alexias's journey, readers are invited to reflect on the intersections of history, identity, and love—elements that continue to resonate well beyond the ancient world.

[The Last Of The Wine By Mary Renault](#)

the last of the wine by mary renauld: The Last of the Wine Mary Renault, 2004 The story of Alexias, a young Athenian from a good family who gets drawn in to the controversial teachings of Socrates and a participates in the Olympic Games -- all set against the background of famine, siege and civil conflict.

the last of the wine by mary renauld: The Last of the Wine Mary Renault, 2015-08-06 'All my sense of the ancient world - its values, its style, the scent of its wars and passions - comes from Mary Renault. Her Theseus novels are perhaps the most exciting of her Greek fictions, and The Last of the Wine the most moving. I turned to writing historical fiction because of something I learned from Renault: that it lets you shake off the mental shackles of your own era, all the categories and labels, and write freely about what really matters to you' EMMA DONOGHUE 'Mary Renault's portraits of the ancient world are fierce, complex and eloquent, infused at every turn with her life-long passion for the Classics. Her characters live vividly both in their own time, and in ours' MADELINE MILLER Combining the scholarship of a historian with the imagination of a novelist, Mary Renault masterfully brings the ancient world to life in this page-turning drama of the Peloponnesian War. Alexias, a young Athenian of good family, comes of age during the last phases of the Peloponnesian War. The adult world he enters is one in which the power and influence of his class have been undermined by the forces of war. Alexias finds himself drawn to the controversial teachings of Socrates, following him even though it at times endangers both his own life and his family's place in society. Among the great teacher's followers Alexias meets Lysis, and the two youths become inseparable - together they wrestle in the palaestra, journey to the Olympic Games, and fight in the wars against Sparta. As their relationship develops against the background of famine, siege and civil conflict, Mary Renault expertly conveys the intricacies of classical Greek culture. 'Mary Renault is a shining light to both historical novelists and their readers. She does not pretend the past is like the present, or that the people of ancient Greece were just like us. She shows us their strangeness; discerning, sure-footed, challenging our values, piquing our curiosity, she leads us through an alien landscape that moves and delights us' HILARY MANTEL 'The most vivid and convincing reconstruction of ancient Greek life that I have ever seen' Sunday Times

the last of the wine by mary renauld: The Last of the Wine Mary Renault, 2013-09-10 New York Times bestseller: A "highly superior historical novel" about the bond that grows between two men in ancient Athens (Saturday Review). Alexias is a young aristocrat living during the end of Athens's Golden Age. Prized for his beauty and athletic prowess, Alexias studies under Sokrates with his closest friend, Lysis. Together, the young men come of age in an Athens on the verge of great upheaval. They attend the Olympics, partake in symposia, fight on the battlefields of the Peloponnesian War, and fall in love. The first of Mary Renault's celebrated historical novels of ancient Greece, The Last of the Wine follows Alexias and Lysis into adulthood, when Athens is defeated by Sparta, the Thirty Tyrants take hold of the city, and the lives of both men are changed forever. Through their friendship, Renault opens a vista onto ancient Greek life, uncovering its vibrancy, culture, and political strife, and offers an unforgettable story of love, honor, loyalty, and the remarkable bond between two men. This ebook features an illustrated biography of Mary Renault including rare images of the author. "Mary Renault is a shining light to both historical novelists and their readers. She does not pretend the past is like the present, or that the people of ancient Greece were just like us. She shows us their strangeness; discerning, sure-footed, challenging our values, piquing our curiosity, she leads us through an alien landscape that moves and delights us." —Hilary Mantel

the last of the wine by mary renauld: The Masks of Mary Renault Caroline Zilboorg, 2013-10-10 Born Eileen Mary Challans in London in 1905, Mary Renault wrote six successful contemporary novels before turning to the historical fiction about ancient Greece for which she is best known. While Renault's novels are still highly regarded, her life and work have never been

completely examined. Caroline Zilboorg seeks to remedy this in *The Masks of Mary Renault* by exploring Renault's identity as a gifted writer and a sexual woman in a society in which neither of these identities was clear or easy. Although Renault's life was anything but ordinary, this fact has often been obscured by her writing. The daughter of a doctor, she grew up comfortably and attended a boarding school in Bristol. She received a degree in English from St. Hugh's College in Oxford in 1928, but she chose not to pursue an academic career. Instead, she decided to attend the Radcliffe Infirmary in Oxford, where she trained to be a nurse. With the outbreak of the Second World War, she was assigned to the Winford Emergency Hospital in Bristol and briefly worked with Dunkirk evacuees. She went on to work in the Radcliffe Infirmary's brain surgery ward and was there until 1945. It was during her nurse's training that Renault met Julie Mullard, who became her lifelong companion. This important lesbian relationship both resolved and posed many problems for Renault, not the least of which was how she was to write about issues at once intensely personal and socially challenging. In 1939, Renault published her first novel under a pseudonym in order to mask her identity. It was a time when she was struggling not only with her vocation (nursing and writing), but also with her sexual identity in the social and moral context of English life during the war. In 1948, Renault left England with Mullard for South Africa and never returned. It was in South Africa that she made the shift from her early contemporary novels of manners to the mature historical novels of Hellenic life. The classical settings allowed Renault to mask material too explosive to deal with directly while simultaneously giving her an academic freedom to write about subjects vital to her—among them war, peace, career, women's roles, female and male homosexuality, and bisexuality. Renault's reception complicates an understanding of her achievement, for she has a special status within the academic community, where she is both widely read and little written about. Her interest in sexuality and specifically in homosexuality and bisexuality, in fluid gender roles and identities, warrants a rereading and reevaluation of her work. Eloquently written and extensively researched, *The Masks of Mary Renault* will be of special value to anyone interested in women's studies or English literature.

the last of the wine by mary renauld: [Mary Renault](#) Peter Wolfe, 1969

the last of the wine by mary renauld: 100 Must-read Historical Novels Nick Rennison, 2009-09-21 This latest guide in the highly successful Must-Read series depicts 100 of the finest historical fiction tales published, with a further 500 recommendations. The text covers a wide range of classic works and key authors.

the last of the wine by mary renauld: [Read This Next](#) Howard Mittelmark, Sandra Newman, 2010-11-02 Are you tired of bland, overly earnest reading guides that discuss the same old books? *Read This Next* by Sandra Newman and Howard Mittelmark is the answer. A smart, irreverent, honest, and truly hilarious guide to your 500 new favorite books, *Read This Next* is aimed at those readers and book groups that are looking for great reading suggestions with more variety and spice than the usual book club picks—while offering food for thought and laughter in equal measure.

the last of the wine by mary renauld: [The Rough Guide to The Greek Islands](#) Rough Guides, 2015-04-01 *The Rough Guide to the Greek Islands* is the definitive guidebook to this fantastic region. This full-color edition has been completely revamped and updated with new user-friendly accommodation and eating reviews and crystal-clear maps, but still holds onto all the best features of the guidebook, such as detailed background and a journalistic eye for detail. Get the lowdown on island-hopping from Corfu to Kós, read insider tips on the best beaches to escape the crowds, and discover the choicest resorts from boutique to backpacker. Read expert information on everything Greek—from Homer to hiking. As our readers put it, this is simply the best guide you can get, packed with accurate, practical detail, the most complete, and the most readable and frank of the guidebooks. Travel like you mean it with *The Rough Guide to the Greek Islands*.

the last of the wine by mary renauld: A Queer History of the United States Michael Bronski, 2011 Engaging and thought-provoking, *A Queer History of the United States* is the first book to cover the entirety of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender history, from pre-1492 to the present.

the last of the wine by mary renauld: The Revival of Platonism in Cicero's Late

Philosophy William H. F. Altman, 2016-04-13 Less than two years before his murder, Cicero created a catalogue of his philosophical writings that included dialogues he had written years before, numerous recently completed works, and even one he had not yet begun to write, all arranged in the order he intended them to be read, beginning with the introductory Hortensius, rather than in accordance with order of composition. Following the order of the *De divinatione* catalogue, William H. F. Altman considers each of Cicero's late works as part of a coherent philosophical project determined throughout by its author's Platonism. Locating the parallel between Plato's Allegory of the Cave and Cicero's "Dream of Scipio" at the center of Cicero's life and thought as both philosopher and orator, Altman argues that Cicero is not only "Plato's rival" (it was Quintilian who called him *Platonis aemulus*) but also a peerless guide to what it means to be a Platonist, especially since Plato's legacy was as hotly debated in his own time as it still is in ours. Distinctive of Cicero's late dialogues is the invention of a character named "Cicero," an amiable if incompetent adherent of the New Academy whose primary concern is only with what is truth-like (*veri simile*). Following Augustine's lead, Altman reveals the deliberate inadequacy of this pose and argues that Cicero himself, the writer of dialogues who used "Cicero" as one of many philosophical personae, must always be sought elsewhere: in direct dialogue with the dialogues of Plato, the teacher he revered and whose Platonism he revived. *The Revival of Platonism in Cicero's Late Philosophy: Platonis aemulus and the Invention of Cicero* is a must read for anyone working in classical studies, ancient philosophy, ancient history, or the history of philosophy.

the last of the wine by mary renauld: Greece Michael Carroll, 2017-08-30 'If in the library of your house you do not have the works of the ancient Greek writers then you have a house with no light' -George Bernard Shaw There is so much in the modern world which has its origins in Greece, most notably language and literature. As Shelley once said, 'We are all Greeks'. This small, rugged, sea-girt country has the longest written history in Europe. Her myths and legends, so deeply embedded in Western consciousness, and her sublime landscapes, so infused with history, have been muse for writers, artists and travellers for millennia. Travelling from Athens to the scattered islands of the Ionian and Aegean seas, the words of literary titans in the West echo through the centuries: from Homer and Plato to Byron, Flaubert and Twain; Henry Miller to John Fowles; the Durrells to Patrick Leigh Fermor and Cavafy, Kazantzakis and Seferis. Their luminous portraits of Greece - poignant, provocative, always entertaining - enrich our own experiences of the country and shed light on a dramatic and often tragic past.

the last of the wine by mary renauld: Wild Mares Dianna Hunter, 2018-04-10 A wry memoir of growing up, coming out, and going back to the land as a lesbian feminist in the rural Midwest of the 1960s and 70s Dianna Hunter was a softball-loving, working-class tomboy in North Dakota, surviving the threat of the Cuban Missile Crisis and Mutually Assured Destruction in the shadow of a strategic air command base. Communists and antiwar hippies were the enemy, but lesbians were a threat, too: they were unhealthy, criminal, and downright insane. It took Dianna a while to figure out that she was one, a little longer to discover how she fit in with her new communities in the city and the countryside. This is her story—a frank account by turns comic and painful of a well-behaved Midwestern girl finding her way through polite denial and repression and running head-on into the eye-opening events of the 1960s and '70s before landing on a dairy farm. A bumpy route takes Dianna to the Twin Cities, then to rural Minnesota and Wisconsin as—by way of the antiwar movement, women's liberation, and a dose of lesbian feminism—she and her friends try to establish a rural utopia free of sexual oppression, violence, materialism, environmental degradation—and men. They dream big, love as they see fit, and make do until they don't. Dianna buys a dairy farm and, with it, a new set of problems thanks to the Reagan-era farm crisis. A firsthand account of the lesbian feminist movement at its inception, *Wild Mares* is a deeply personal, wryly wise, and always engaging view of identity politics lived and learned in real life and, literally, on the ground, flourishing in the fertile soil of a struggling dairy farm in the American heartland.

the last of the wine by mary renauld: Encyclopedia of Feminist Literature Mary Ellen

Snodgrass, 2015-04-22 Presents articles on feminist literature, including significant authors, themes and history.

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the last of the wine by mary renauld: Are Girls Necessary? Julie Abraham, Originally published: New York: Routledge, 1996.

the last of the wine by mary renauld: A Multicultural Dictionary of Literary Terms Gary Carey, Mary Ellen Snodgrass, 2024-10-14 What is a corrido? What is the difference between a tanka, a choka and a renga? What does it mean when you're doing the dozens? What is a Bildungsroman? This dictionary of literary terms provides the student, scholar, librarian, or researcher with definitions, explanations, and models of the styles and forms of works of literature. Along with novel, tone, tragedy, and scansion are haiku, noh, griot, and other terms that derive from works long undervalued by the literary world. The examples come from a very broad field of authors--reflecting a spirit of inclusion of all people, races and literary traditions. The editors have elected to quote from literary examples that students are likely to have read and to which they most readily relate (for instance, Angelou's I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings was preferred over a work such as Paradise Lost, which fewer students have read and understand). Included is a listing of poets laureate to the Library of Congress, literature winners of the Pulitzer and Nobel prizes, Booker McConnell Prize winners, a time line of world literature and an index.

the last of the wine by mary renauld: Encyclopedia of Gay Histories and Cultures George Haggerty, 2013-11-05 First Published in 2000. A rich heritage that needs to be documented Beginning in 1869, when the study of homosexuality can be said to have begun with the establishment of sexology, this encyclopedia offers accounts of the most important international developments in an area that now occupies a critical place in many fields of academic endeavors. It covers a long history and a dynamic and ever changing present, while opening up the academic profession to new scholarship and new ways of thinking. A groundbreaking new approach While gays and lesbians have shared many aspects of life, their histories and cultures developed in profoundly different ways. To reflect this crucial fact, the encyclopedia has been prepared in two separate volumes assuring that both histories receive full, unbiased attention and that a broad range of human experience is covered. Written for and by a widerange of people Intended as a reference for students and scholars in all fields, as well as for the general public, the encyclopedia is written in user-friendly language. At the same time it maintains a high level of scholarship that incorporates both passion and objectivity. It is written by some of the most famous names in the field, as well as new scholars, whose research continues to advance gender studies into the future.

the last of the wine by mary renauld: Gendering Classicism Ruth Hoberman, 1997-01-01 Gendering Classicism explores the intersection of feminism, historical fiction, and modernism through the work of six writers, all of whom wrote historical novels set in ancient Greece or Rome: Naomi Mitchison, Mary Butts, Laura Riding, Phyllis Bentley, Bryher, and Mary Renault. As women gained access to higher education in the late nineteenth century, they gained access also to the classical learning that had for so long demarcated and legitimated the British ruling classes. Steeped in misogyny, the classical tradition presented educated women with a massive project: the recasting of that tradition in terms that acknowledged the existence of women - as historical agents and interpreters of the historical past.

the last of the wine by mary renauld: Women Writers of Great Britain and Europe Katharina M. Wilson, Paul Schlueter, June Schlueter, 2013-12-16 A valuable survey and reference resource It is hard to imagine a more needed and more useful literary reference work than this one, which gives students and readers quick access to the lives and work of a wide range of notable female writers from England and the Continent, from Aphra Behn to Emily Bronte, from Simone de Beauvoir to Isak Dinesen, from Bridget of Sweden to Hannah Arendt. Writers in more than 30

languages are included: French, Czech, Greek, Italian, Swedish, Spanish, German, Russian, Portuguese, Serbian, Catalan, Arabic, Hebrew, Dutch, Bulgarian, Croatian, Slovak, and more. Covers 1,500 years and all major genres Going back 15 centuries, the Encyclopedia covers the authors of novels, short stories, poetry, plays, criticism, social commentary, feminist manifestos, romances, mysteries, memoirs, children's literature, biography, and other genres. In signed entries, some of which are mini-essays, experts in the field examine writers' lives and achievements, comment on individual works, place artistic efforts in historical context, provide insights and analyses, and present more information than can be easily found elsewhere without undertaking more exhaustive research. Each entry is followed by a bibliography of primary works. Indexed by language, nationality, genre, and century. Spotlights the interesting lives of notable writers In these pages students and readers will meet hundreds of interesting women writers who made lasting contributions to the intellectual and popular culture of their countries while often leading fascinating lives, among them: * AGATHA CHRISTIE , who wrote her first book in response to her sister's demand for a detective story that was harder to solve than the popular fiction of her day, and whose work has been translated in more languages than Shakespeare's. * HILDEGARD VON BINGEN , the 12th-century German mystic, who wrote profusely as a prophet, a poet, a dramatist, a physician, and a political moralist, often communicated with popes and princes, and exerted a tremendous influence on the Western Europe of her time * MARY WOLLSTONECRAFT SHELLEY, whose 1818 masterpiece *Frankenstein; or, The Modern Prometheus* became a literary sensation around the world * ILSE BLUMENTHAL-WEISS, one of the few concentration camp survivors to memorialize the victims of the Holocaust in German verse * LINA WERTMULLER, who in addition to her work in films, has written plays for the stage and a novel, and who once was a member of a short-lived puppet theater that staged the works of Kafka. Special features: Ideal for quick reference and student research * Multicultural-covers over 30 languages and 15 centuries * Includes many contemporary writers * Provides essential biographic data on each writer * Each entry is followed by a chronological listing of the writer's published book-length works * Offers critical evaluations of major works * Indexes help find writers by country...research by time period...survey genres...focus on languages

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