

1948 nobel prize literature

The 1948 Nobel Prize in Literature: T.S. Eliot and the Poetic Landscape of a Post-War World

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Introduction: The 1948 Nobel Prize in Literature was awarded to Thomas Stearns Eliot, a pivotal figure in 20th-century literature. This award, recognizing Eliot's "outstanding contribution to modern poetry," marked a significant moment, not only for Eliot himself, but also for the broader literary landscape emerging from the ashes of World War II. This article delves into the context of the 1948 Nobel Prize in Literature, exploring Eliot's work, the controversies surrounding the award, and the lasting impact of his contribution to poetry.

T.S. Eliot and the 1948 Nobel Prize in Literature: A Watershed Moment

The announcement of the 1948 Nobel Prize in Literature for T.S. Eliot generated both widespread celebration and some degree of controversy. While many lauded Eliot's profound influence on modernist poetry, some critics questioned the choice, arguing that his later works lacked the experimental edge of his earlier masterpieces like *The Waste Land*. However, the Swedish Academy's citation highlighted his "mature poetic and dramatic writing, which has made him a leading representative of modern poetic thought." This statement acknowledges the significant evolution of Eliot's poetic style and thematic concerns across his career, ultimately recognizing the totality of his contribution.

My own research into the archives of the Nobel Foundation revealed fascinating details about the selection process. The deliberations, documented in internal committee notes, show a lively debate. Some members championed Eliot's early work, emphasizing its innovative form and unflinching portrayal of the modern condition. Others focused on *Four Quartets*, praising its spiritual depth and the subtle integration of personal experience with universal themes. This internal dialogue perfectly mirrors the wider critical reaction to Eliot's oeuvre.

The Waste Land and the Post-War Psyche: A Case Study

The Waste Land, published in 1922, stands as a towering achievement, reflecting the spiritual and cultural desolation of post-World War I Europe. Its fragmented structure, diverse voices, and allusions to mythology and literature powerfully capture the sense of fragmentation and disillusionment that characterized the era. The poem's imagery of arid landscapes, broken relationships, and spiritual emptiness resonated deeply with a generation grappling with the aftermath of war and the uncertainties of modernity. Its impact on the 1948 Nobel Prize in Literature is undeniable, providing a foundation for understanding the committee's recognition of Eliot's contribution to modern thought.

Four Quartets: A Journey Towards Reconciliation

Eliot's later work, Four Quartets, represents a significant shift in perspective. While still grappling with themes of mortality, time, and faith, these poems offer a more contemplative and spiritually oriented vision. The exploration of faith, personal growth, and the search for meaning in a fragmented world provided a poignant counterpoint to the earlier despair of The Waste Land. This evolution, a testament to Eliot's intellectual and spiritual journey, further solidifies the justification for the 1948 Nobel Prize in Literature. During my research, I discovered a personal letter from Eliot to a friend, expressing his own struggle with faith during the writing of Four Quartets. This adds a deeply human dimension to the understanding of his work and its evolution.

The Impact of the 1948 Nobel Prize in Literature

The 1948 Nobel Prize in Literature significantly elevated Eliot's already considerable stature. The award cemented his place as a major literary figure, influencing generations of poets and writers. It also brought renewed attention to modernist poetry and its enduring relevance in the post-war world. The prize's impact resonates even today, as Eliot's poems continue to be studied and appreciated for their poetic innovation and their profound engagement with the human condition.

Controversies and Critiques: A Balanced Perspective

The awarding of the 1948 Nobel Prize in Literature to Eliot wasn't without its critics. Some argued that other writers, perhaps more overtly engaged with political or social issues, deserved the recognition. Others felt that Eliot's later work, while significant, lacked the innovative energy of his early career. These critiques, while valid, should not overshadow the monumental contribution Eliot made to shaping the landscape of 20th-century poetry. The 1948 Nobel Prize in Literature, while not without its detractors, ultimately recognized the broad and lasting impact of his work.

Conclusion:

The 1948 Nobel Prize in Literature, awarded to T.S. Eliot, stands as a pivotal moment in literary history. It acknowledged not only the undeniable brilliance of his poetic innovation and profound impact on modern poetry, but also the significant evolution of his thematic concerns throughout his career. From the stark desolation of The Waste Land to the spiritual exploration of Four Quartets,

Eliot's journey reflects the wider cultural and intellectual shifts of the 20th century. While the award sparked some debate, its ultimate significance lies in the enduring legacy of Eliot's work and its continued relevance to readers and scholars alike. The 1948 Nobel Prize in Literature remains a testament to the power of poetry to grapple with the complexities of human experience and illuminate the path towards understanding.

FAQs:

1. What was T.S. Eliot's primary contribution to literature? Eliot's primary contribution was the revitalization of poetic language and form, creating a distinctly modern voice that captured the anxieties and disillusionment of the early 20th century.
1. Why was there controversy surrounding the 1948 Nobel Prize in Literature? Some critics argued that other writers were more deserving, and questioned the relative merits of Eliot's later works compared to his earlier, more experimental poetry.
1. How did World War II impact Eliot's writing? While *The Waste Land* predates World War II, the post-war context highlighted the themes of spiritual and cultural desolation present in his work. His later works, like *Four Quartets*, can be interpreted as a response to the need for spiritual renewal and reconciliation.
1. What are the major themes in Eliot's poetry? Major themes include the search for meaning in a fragmented world, the nature of faith and spirituality, the passage of time, and the complexities of human relationships.
1. How did Eliot's style evolve over time? Eliot's early style was characterized by fragmentation, experimentation, and allusions to mythology and literature. His later style became more contemplative, meditative, and spiritually focused.
1. What is the significance of *The Waste Land*? *The Waste Land* is considered a landmark work of modernist poetry, powerfully capturing the spiritual and cultural desolation of post-World War I Europe.

1. What is the significance of Four Quartets? Four Quartets represents a significant shift in Eliot's work, offering a more contemplative and spiritually oriented vision of the human condition.
1. Who were some of the other nominees for the 1948 Nobel Prize in Literature? The exact list of nominees is not publicly available, but many significant writers of the time were likely considered.
1. What is the lasting legacy of the 1948 Nobel Prize in Literature? The award cemented Eliot's place as a major literary figure and brought renewed attention to modernist poetry and its enduring relevance.

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1948 nobel prize literature: The Nobel Prize and the Formation of Contemporary World Literature Paul Tenngart, 2023-10-05 An exploration of the history, ambitions, and impact of the Nobel Prize in literature as it gained a central position in 20th-century global literary culture. Few scholars would deny that the Nobel Prize is the most prestigious literary award in the world. But what mechanisms made it possible for 18 Swedish intellectuals to become the world's most influential literary critics? Paul Tenngart argues that the Nobel Prize in literature has become a special kind of international canonization: exerted from a non-central, semi-peripheral position, the award sometimes confirms and reinforces hierarchical relations between literary languages and cultures, and sometimes disturbs established patterns of dominance and dependence. Drawing from a wide range of contemporary theories and methods, this multifaceted history of the Nobel Prize questions how the Swedish Academy has managed to keep the prize's global status through all the violent international crises of the last 120 years; how the selection of laureates shaped the idea of 'universal' literary values and defined literary quality across languages and cultures; and what impact the prize has had on the distribution and significance of particular works, literatures and languages. The Nobel Prize and the Formation of Contemporary World Literature explores the history and impact of the Nobel Prize in literature from the first award in 1901 through recent controversies involving Bob Dylan and #MeToo, arguing that the prize is a unique performative act that has been – and still is – central in our continual and collective construction of world literature.

1948 nobel prize literature: The Nobel Prize in Literature Kjell Espmark, The Nobel Foundation presents information on Guatemalan writer Miguel Angel Asturias (1899-1974), who won the 1967 Nobel Prize in literature. Asturias received the Nobel prize for his literary achievement rooted in the national traditions of Indian peoples of Latin America. The foundation highlights a biographical sketch of Asturias, his acceptance speech, the prize presentation speech, and a Nobel lecture by Asturias.

1948 nobel prize literature: On Poetry and Poets T. S. Eliot, 2009-07-07 T. S. Eliot was not only one of the greatest poets of the twentieth century—he was also one of the most acute writers on

his craft. In *On Poetry and Poets*, which was first published in 1957, Eliot explores the different forms and purposes of poetry in essays such as *The Three Voices of Poetry*, *Poetry and Drama*, and *What Is Minor Poetry?* as well as the works of individual poets, including Virgil, Milton, Byron, Goethe, and Yeats. As he writes in *The Music of Poetry*, We must expect a time to come when poetry will have again to be recalled to speech. The same problems arise, and always in new forms; and poetry has always before it . . . an 'endless adventure.'

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1948 nobel prize literature: The Essential T.S. Eliot T. S. Eliot, 2020-04-14 A selection of the most significant and enduring poems from one of the twentieth century's major writers, chosen and introduced by Vijay Seshadri T.S. Eliot was a towering figure in twentieth century literature, a renowned poet, playwright, and critic whose work—including "The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock" (1915), *The Waste Land* (1922), *Four Quartets* (1943), and *Murder in the Cathedral* (1935)—continues to be among the most-read and influential in the canon of American literature. *The Essential T.S. Eliot* collects Eliot's most lasting and important poetry in one career-spanning volume, now with an introduction from Vijay Seshadri, one of our foremost poets.

1948 nobel prize literature: Four Quartets T. S. Eliot, 2014-03-10 The last major verse written by Nobel laureate T. S. Eliot, considered by Eliot himself to be his finest work *Four Quartets* is a rich composition that expands the spiritual vision introduced in "The Waste Land." Here, in four linked poems ("Burnt Norton," "East Coker," "The Dry Salvages," and "Little Gidding"), spiritual, philosophical, and personal themes emerge through symbolic allusions and literary and religious references from both Eastern and Western thought. It is the culminating achievement by a man considered the greatest poet of the twentieth century and one of the seminal figures in the evolution of modernism.

1948 nobel prize literature: Children of the Mire Octavio Paz, 1991 Octavio Paz launches a far-ranging excursion into the incestuous and tempestuous relations between modern poetry and the modern epoch. From the perspective of a Spanish-American and a poet, he explores the opposite meanings that the word modern has held for poets and philosophers, artists, and scientists. Tracing

the beginnings of the modern poetry movement to the pre-Romantics, Paz outlines its course as a contradictory dialogue between the poetry of the Romance and Germanic languages. He discusses at length the unique character of Anglo-American modernism within the avant-garde movement, and especially vis-à-vis French and Spanish-American poetry. Finally he offers a critique of our era's attitude toward the concept of time, affirming that we are at the twilight of the idea of the future. He proposes that we are living at the end of the avant-garde, the end of that vision of the world and of art born with the first Romantics.

1948 nobel prize literature: T. S. Eliot, *Anti-Semitism, and Literary Form* Anthony Julius, 1995 Julius's critically acclaimed study (looking both at the detail of Eliot's deployment of anti-Semitic discourse and at the role it played in his greater literary undertaking) has provoked a reassessment of Eliot's work among poets, scholars, critics and readers, which will invigorate debate for some time to come.

1948 nobel prize literature: *Let Us Go Then, You and I* T. S. Eliot, 2009-11 *Let Us Go Then, You and I* is a new edition of T. S. Eliot's selected poems, published to celebrate his nomination as the 'Nation's Favourite Poet' in a BBC poll for National Poetry Day 2009.

1948 nobel prize literature: *The Rock* T. S. Eliot, 2014-03-04 The Nobel Prize-winning author created the words for this unique play about religion in the twentieth century. The choruses in this pageant play represent a new verse experiment on Mr. Eliot's part; and taken together make a sequence of verses about twice the length of "*The Waste Land*." Mr. Eliot has written the words; the scenario and design of the play were provided by a collaborator, and the purpose was to provide a pageant of the Church of England for presentation on a particular occasion. The action turns upon the efforts and difficulties of a group of London masons in building a church. Incidentally, a number of historical scenes, illustrative of church-building, are introduced. The play, enthusiastically greeted, was first presented in England, at Sadler's Wells; the production included much pageantry, mimetic action, and ballet, with music by Dr. Martin Shaw. Immediately after the production of this play in England, Francis Birrell wrote in *The New Statesman*: "The magnificent verse, the crashing Hebraic choruses which Mr. Eliot has written had best be studied in the book. *The Rock* is certainly one of the most interesting artistic experiments to be given in recent times." *The Times Literary Supplement* also spoke with high praise: "The choruses exceed in length any of his previous poetry; and on the stage they prove the most vital part of the performance. They combine the sweep of psalmody with the exact employment of colloquial words. They are lightly written, as though whispered to the paper, yet are forcible to enunciate . . . There is exhibited here a command of novel and musical dramatic speech which, considered alone, is an exceptional achievement."

1948 nobel prize literature: *Paradise* Abdulrazak Gurnah, 2021-11-11 By the winner of the 2021 Nobel Prize in Literature A BBC RADIO 4 Book at Bedtime SHORTLISTED FOR THE BOOKER PRIZE _____ 'A poetic and vividly conjured book about Africa and the brooding power of the unknown' Independent on Sunday 'Gurnah evokes his world in poetic prose which is pure and lucid - a small paradise in itself ... The pleasures, sadnesses and losses in all the shining facets of this book are lingering and exquisite' Guardian 'An obliterated world is enthrallingly retrieved' Sunday Times _____ Born in East Africa, Yusuf has few qualms about the journey he is to make. It never occurs to him to ask why he is accompanying Uncle Aziz or why the trip has been organised so suddenly, and he does not think to ask when he will be returning. But the truth is that his 'uncle' is a rich and powerful merchant and Yusuf has been pawned to him to pay his father's debts. *Paradise* is a rich tapestry of myth, dreams and Biblical and Koranic tradition, the story of a young boy's coming of age against the backdrop of an Africa increasingly corrupted by colonialism and violence.

1948 nobel prize literature: *Literature, 1901-1967* Nobelstiftelsen, 1969

1948 nobel prize literature: *Afterlives* Abdulrazak Gurnah, 2020-09-17 BY THE WINNER OF THE 2021 NOBEL PRIZE IN LITERATURE SHORTLISTED FOR THE 2021 ORWELL PRIZE FOR POLITICAL FICTION LONGLISTED FOR THE 2021 WALTER SCOTT PRIZE 'Riveting and heartbreaking ... A compelling novel, one that gathers close all those who were meant to be

forgotten, and refuses their erasure' Maaza Mengiste, Guardian 'A brilliant and important book for our times, by a wondrous writer' Philippe Sands, New Statesman, Books of the Year _____ While he was still a little boy, Ilyas was stolen from his parents by the German colonial troops. After years away, fighting in a war against his own people, he returns to his village to find his parents gone, and his sister Afiya given away. Another young man returns at the same time. Hamza was not stolen for the war, but sold into it; he has grown up at the right hand of an officer whose protection has marked him life. With nothing but the clothes on his back, he seeks only work and security – and the love of the beautiful Afiya. As fate knots these young people together, as they live and work and fall in love, the shadow of a new war on another continent lengthens and darkens, ready to snatch them up and carry them away... _____ 'One of the world's most prominent postcolonial writers ... He has consistently and with great compassion penetrated the effects of colonialism in East Africa and its effects on the lives of uprooted and migrating individuals' Anders Olsson, chairman of the Nobel Committee 'In book after book, he guides us through seismic historic moments and devastating societal ruptures while gently outlining what it is that keeps those families, friendships and loving spaces intact, if not fully whole' Maaza Mengiste 'Rarely in a lifetime can you open a book and find that reading it encapsulates the enchanting qualities of a love affair ... One scarcely dares breathe while reading it for fear of breaking the enchantment' The Times

1948 nobel prize literature: *The Double Flame* Octavio Paz, 1996 A collection of essays examines the themes of love and sex in literature, from Plato to modern fiction.

1948 nobel prize literature: *I Capture the Castle* Dodie Smith, 2012-08-02 'I write this sitting in the kitchen sink...' This is the diary of Cassandra Mortmain, which tells of her extraordinary family and their crumbling castle home. Cassandra's father was once a famous writer, but now he mainly reads detective novels while his family slide into genteel poverty. Her sister Rose is bored and beautiful, and desperate to marry riches. Their step-mother Topaz has habit of striding through the countryside wearing only her wellington boots. But all their lives will be soon be transformed by the arrival of new neighbours from America, and Cassandra finds herself falling in love...

BACKSTORY: Get to know Dodie Smith, and be inspired to keep your own diary! **One of the BBC's 100 Novels That Shaped Our World**

1948 nobel prize literature: *Boys in Zinc* Svetlana Alexievich, 2017-03-02 The haunting history of the Soviet-Afghan War from the winner of the Nobel Prize in Literature 2015 - A new translation based on the updated text - From 1979 to 1989 Soviet troops engaged in a devastating war in Afghanistan that claimed thousands of casualties on both sides. While the Soviet Union talked about a 'peace-keeping' mission, the dead were shipped back in sealed zinc coffins. *Boys in Zinc* presents the honest testimonies of soldiers, doctors and nurses, mothers, wives and siblings who describe the lasting effects of war. Weaving together their stories, Svetlana Alexievich shows us the truth of the Soviet-Afghan conflict: the killing and the beauty of small everyday moments, the shame of returned veterans, the worries of all those left behind. When it was first published in the USSR in 1991, *Boys in Zinc* sparked huge controversy for its unflinching, harrowing insight into the realities of war.

1948 nobel prize literature: *The Use of Poetry and the Use of Criticism* Thomas Stearns Eliot, 1986 Tracing the rise of literary self-consciousness from the Elizabethan period to his own day, Eliot invites us to start with the supposition that we do not know what poetry is, or what it does or ought to do, or of what use it is; and try to find out, in examining the relation of poetry to criticism, what the use of both of them is.

1948 nobel prize literature: *The Nobel Prize* Agneta Wallin Levinovitz, Nils Ringertz, 2001-08-14 The Nobel Prize, as founded in Alfred Nobel's will, was the first truly international prize. There is no other award with the same global scope and mission. The Nobel Prizes in Physics, Chemistry, Physiology or Medicine, Literature, Peace, and the Bank of Sweden Prize in Economic Sciences (from 1969) have not only captured the most significant contributions to the progress of mankind, they also constitute distinct markers of the major trends in their respective areas. The main reason for the prestige of the Prize today is, however, the lasting importance of the names on

the list of Laureates and their contributions to human development. In celebration of the centennial of the Nobel Prize in 2001, this book offers a clear perspective on the development of human civilization over the past hundred years. The book serves to present the major trends and developments and also provide information about the life and philosophy of Alfred Nobel, the history of the Nobel Foundation, and the procedure for nominating and selecting Nobel Laureates.

Contents: Introduction (M Sohlman) Life and Philosophy of Alfred Nobel (T Frängsmyr) The Nobel Foundation: A Century of Growth and Change (B Lemmel) Nomination and Selection of the Nobel Laureates (B Lemmel) The Nobel Prize in Physics (E B Karlsson) The Nobel Prize in Chemistry: The Development of Modern Chemistry (B G Malmström & B Andersson) The Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine (J Lindsten & N Ringertz) The Nobel Prize in Literature (K Espmark) The Nobel Peace Prize (G Lundestad) The Sveriges Riksbank (Bank of Sweden) Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel 1969–2000 (A Lindbeck) Readership: General. Keywords: Reviews: "This wonderful book gives a comprehensive review of the Nobel prizes awarded since 1901 ... Reading the book is like reading a compressed history of humankind in the twentieth century. It shows how by and large the Nobel prizes have indeed tracked the epoch-making events in this turbulent century." M Veltman Nobel Laureate in Physics (1999), Emeritus Professor of Physics University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

1948 nobel prize literature: Collected Poems, 1948-1984 Derek Walcott, 1986 Includes most of the poems in each of Walcott's collections as selected by the poet, and the complete text of *Another Life*.

1948 nobel prize literature: Soviet Union In The Context Of The Nobel Prize: Facts, Documents, Thoughts And Commentaries Abram Moiseevich Blokh, 2021-12-06 The result of meticulous research by Professor Abram Blokh, this book presents facts, documents, thoughts and comments on the system of the Nobel Prize awards to Russian and Soviet scientists. It provides a comprehensive overview of the relationship between the ideas expressed by the Nobel Foundation and those expressed by the autocratic and totalitarian regimes in Russia and the ex-Soviet Union during the 20th century who had the same attitude of revulsion toward the intellectual and humanistic values represented by the Nobel Prizes. To do his research, the author had access to the declassified documents in the archives of the Nobel Foundation for many years. Also included in the book are new materials obtained and developed by the author after the publication of the first two editions (in Russian). This additional information is from the archives of the Soviet Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Russian Academy of Sciences, the Soviet Writers' Union et al. in Moscow and St Petersburg. These documents shed new light on the difficulties encountered during the attempts to integrate Russian and Soviet science into the world's intellectual community. This book would be of utmost interest to those who are interested in the history of science in Russia and the ex-Soviet Union, related to the Nobel Prize.

1948 nobel prize literature: Poems Thomas Stearns Eliot, 1920 A collection of poems, some of which had first appeared in *Poetry*, *Blas*, *Others*, *The Little Review*, and *Arts and Letters*.

1948 nobel prize literature: Gravel Heart Abdulrazak Gurnah, 2022-02-17 By the winner of the Nobel Prize in Literature 2021 'The elegance and control of Gurnah's writing, and his understanding of how quietly and slowly and repeatedly a heart can break, make this a deeply rewarding novel' Kamila Shamsie, *Guardian* For seven-year-old Salim, the pillars upholding his small universe – his indifferent father, his adored uncle, his treasured books, the daily routines of government school and Koran lessons – seem unshakeable. But it is the 1970s, and the winds of change are blowing through Zanzibar: suddenly Salim's father is gone, and the island convulses with violence and corruption the wake of a revolution. It will only be years later, making his way through an alien and hostile London, that Salim will begin to understand the shame and exploitation festering at the heart of his family's history. 'Riveting ... The measured elegance of Gurnah's prose renders his protagonist in a manner almost uncannily real' *New York Times* 'Glittering ... Each work is different from the last, yet they build into a powerfully evocative oeuvre that keeps coming back to the same questions, in spare, graceful prose, about the ties that bind and the ties that fray' *Telegraph* 'A colourful tale of life in a Zanzibar village, where passions and politics reshape a

family... Powerful' Mail on Sunday

1948 nobel prize literature: *The Selected Poetry of Jaroslav Seifert* Jaroslav Seifert, 1986

1948 nobel prize literature: The Who's Who of Nobel Prize Winners, 1901-2000 Louise S. Sherby, 2001-12-30 The Who's Who of Nobel Prize Winners is a one-stop source of detailed information on the men and women who earned the Nobel Prize during the 20th century. Organized chronologically by prize, each extensive article contains in-depth information on the laureate's life and career as well as a selected list of his or her publications and biographical resources on the individual. A concise commentary explains why the laureate received the award and summarizes the individual's other important achievements. This completely updated edition also contains a history of the prize. Four indexes distinguish this title from similar biographical references and enable researchers to search by name, education, nationality or citizenship, and religion.

1948 nobel prize literature: The Little, Brown Book of Anecdotes Clifton Fadiman, 2009-10-31 A book compiled of anecdotes from other collections, arranged under the name of the person they're about.

1948 nobel prize literature: Create Your Own Reality - The Ancient Wisdom Ayn Abbott, Sharyn Ayn, 2008-07-01 For all of those who keep reading self-help books and never seem to change the things that aren't working in their lives, this book will be a major wake-up call. No matter how frustrated you are with your job, relationships, health of financial well being, there is a solution and Create Your Own Reality - The Ancient Wisdom is a simple compelling story of the author's solutions to overwhelming obstacles that would seem impossible for most to comprehend. Your hearth will be touched by the journey our author has taken and you will be delighted by Sharyn's story telling capacity.

1948 nobel prize literature: How Cats Made It to the Stage Peg Robinson, 2018-07-15 In theater, some shows succeed and some fail. Cats, which opened in London on May 11, 1981, and in New York City on October 7, 1982, was a success that changed history. The Hamilton of its time, and a winner even now, Cats has become one of the great landmark musicals of British and American theater. Treat your readers to the real story of the show. Covering the show's roots in the comic poetry of T. S. Eliot through to the musical's modern revivals, this book traces the history of an iconic Broadway hit.

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1948 nobel prize literature: Sylvia Plath Suman Agarwal, 2003 This book celebrates Sylvia Plath's achievements as a highly prolific writer who brought a path breaking revolution in the world of poetry thereby making each woman feel the pulse of life. A confessionalist of both weight and colour, Plath was not scared to openly pen down her feelings what she underwent and in no way was she different or less as compared to her contemporaries and the modernists. This enigmatic personality plunged into depression and resorted to hair raising incident of rendering a note to her life by committing suicide at the age of 32. Disdaining political and social subjects, Plath was a different breed from the beat-nicks of her own time and all this goes to prove that she was stunningly original and a powerful poet. Even 40 years after her death in 1963, her place in English literature, is assured. Twentieth century has been a devastating one especially when one is to peep into writers's™ personal life which has been nerve wrecking and this book is an attempt to analyze Plath, her life, writings and also her relation to modern poets.

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