

Millay, Edna St. Vincent (1892-1950)

Encyclopedia Article

Millay, Edna St. Vincent (1892-1950)

The following sections of this BookRags Literature Study Guide is offprint from Gale's For Students Series: Presenting Analysis, Context, and Criticism on Commonly Studied Works: Introduction, Author Biography, Plot Summary, Characters, Themes, Style, Historical Context, Critical Overview, Criticism and Critical Essays, Media Adaptations, Topics for Further Study, Compare & Contrast, What Do I Read Next?, For Further Study, and Sources.

(c)1998-2002; (c)2002 by Gale. Gale is an imprint of The Gale Group, Inc., a division of Thomson Learning, Inc. Gale and Design and Thomson Learning are trademarks used herein under license.

The following sections, if they exist, are offprint from Beacham's Encyclopedia of Popular Fiction: "Social Concerns", "Thematic Overview", "Techniques", "Literary Precedents", "Key Questions", "Related Titles", "Adaptations", "Related Web Sites". (c)1994-2005, by Walton Beacham.

The following sections, if they exist, are offprint from Beacham's Guide to Literature for Young Adults: "About the Author", "Overview", "Setting", "Literary Qualities", "Social Sensitivity", "Topics for Discussion", "Ideas for Reports and Papers". (c)1994-2005, by Walton Beacham.

All other sections in this Literature Study Guide are owned and copyrighted by BookRags, Inc.



Contents

Millay, Edna St. Vincent (1892-1950) Encyclopedia Article.....	1
Contents.....	2
Millay, Edna St. Vincent (1892-1950).....	3

Millay, Edna St. Vincent (1892-1950)

The quintessential romantic American poetess of the 1910s and 1920s, Edna St. Vincent Millay became a popular heroine to an entire generation of girls who grew up dreaming of becoming modern women writers. Millay's family was an unconventional one. After Millay's parents separated, Millay's mother, a nurse, reared her children alone, making sure to encourage their creativity. A published poet at 20, Millay became a popular literary figure while still in college at Vassar. There she developed a reputation as free spirit, whose romantic and sexual liaisons with women were recorded in her lyric verse. After graduating and moving to avant-garde Greenwich Village, Millay came to epitomize the modern bohemian lifestyle. A woman who "burned the candle at both ends," Millay took many lovers of both sexes, even as she continued to write popular and award-winning poetry and plays. After marrying feminist Eugen Boissevain in 1923, Millay's poetry and personal life gradually became more conservative. But she continued to write and to tour the country reading her poetry. Wearing only scarlet, Millay continued to attract overflow audiences of women who looked to the poetess as a heroine whose life exemplified the myriad hopeful possibilities for women in the twentieth century.

Further Reading:

Brittin, Norman A. *Edna St. Vincent Millay*. Boston, Twayne Publishers, 1982.

Cheney, Anne. *Millay in Greenwich Village*. Montgomery, University of Alabama Press, 1975.

Gould, Jean. *The Poet and Her Book: A Biography of Edna St. Vincent Millay*. New York, Dodd, Mead and Company, 1969.