Lesbian modernism: censorship, sexuality and genre fiction

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Date
2015

Type
Book

Publisher
Edinburgh University Press

Metadata
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Abstract
The book explores the aesthetic dilemma prompted by the censorship of Radclyffe Hall’s novel The Well of Loneliness in 1928. Faced with legal and financial reprisals, women writers were forced to question how they might represent lesbian identity and desire. Modernist experimentation has often been seen as a response to this problem, but English argues that popular genre fictions offered a creative strategy against the threat of detection and punishment. Her study examines a range of responses to this dilemma by offering close readings of fantasy, crime, and historical fictions written by both mainstream and modernist authors.

Citation

URI
http://hdl.handle.net/10369/7816

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