

L.E.L.

author: Lucasta Miller

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Synopsis

author	Lucasta Miller
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inLanguage	english

A lost nineteenth-century literary life, brilliantly rediscovered--Letitia Elizabeth Landon, hailed as the female Byron; she changed English poetry; her novels, short stories, and criticism, like Byron though in a woman's voice, explored the dark side of sexuality--by the acclaimed author of *The Brontë Myth* ("wonderfully entertaining . . . spellbinding"--*New York Times Book Review*; "ingenious"--*The New Yorker*).
"None among us dares to say / What none will choose to hear"--L.E.L., "Lines of Life"
Letitia Elizabeth Landon--pen name L.E.L.--dared to say it and made sure she was heard. Hers was a life lived in a blaze of scandal and worship, one of the most famous women of her time, the Romantic Age in London's 1820s, her life and writing on the ascendency as Byron's came to an end. Lucasta Miller tells the full story and re-creates the literary London of her time. She was born in 1802 and was shaped by the aftermath of the Napoleonic Wars, a time of conservatism when values were in flux. She began publishing poetry in her teens and came to be known as a daring poet of thwarted romantic love. We see L.E.L. as an emblematic figure who embodied a seismic cultural shift, the missing link between the age of Byron and the creation of Victorianism. Miller writes of *Jane Eyre* as the direct connection to L.E.L.--its first-person confessional voice, its Gothic extremes, its love triangle, and in its emphasis on sadomasochistic romantic passion.

Reader's comments

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