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Mrs. Robinson's Disgrace: The Private Diary of a Victorian Lady

By Summerscale, Kate.

Bloomsbury. 1 Paperback(s), 2012. soft. Book Condition: New. Headstrong, high-spirited, and already widowed, Isabella Walker became Mrs. Henry Robinson at age 31 in 1844. Henry was a successful civil engineer, and moved Isabella and their two sons to Edinburgh in 1850, but he traveled often and behaved coldly even when home. To relieve her frustration, Isabella began recording her most passionate, sensual, and suggestive thoughts, particularly about a married doctor named Lane. When Henry found and read her diary he petitioned for divorce on the grounds of adultery. Read in court, the diary was as explosive as Flaubert's *Madame Bovary*, just published in France but considered too scandalous to be translated into English until the 1880s. As she did in *The Suspicions of Mr. Whicher*, Kate Summerscale brilliantly re-creates the Victorian world, chronicling in exquisite detail how the life of a frustrated wife upset a society clinging to rigid ideas about sanity, the boundaries of privacy, the institution of marriage, and female sexuality. "[The author] prods, scrutinizes and examines, employing a real-life historical episode to shed light on Victorian morality and sensibilities. The end of the court case is surprising, and to give it away would be an insult to Summerscale's...



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Reviews

Simply no terms to explain. I am quite late in start reading this one, but better then never. Its been written in an remarkably easy way and is particularly merely soon after i finished reading this book where basically changed me, affect the way i really believe.

-- Prof. Jedediah Kuhic DVM

An exceptional book and also the font utilized was intriguing to read. This is for all who statte there was not a worth reading. It is extremely difficult to leave it before concluding, once you begin to read the book.

-- Prof. Tyson Hilpert