

The story of Marie Powell, wife to Mr Milton: and, The islands of unwisdom / c Robert Graves; edited by Simon Brittan, , Robert Graves, Carcanet, 2003, 1857545850, 9781857545852, 616 pages. "In these true stories, the acclaimed writer Robert Graves explores the worlds of two men intent on success. Wife to Mr. Milton is an exploration into the marriage of a man the author considered one of the heinous monsters in the English poetic pantheonJohn Miltonand how his wife was ill-used by him. Milton's first wife was 16 when they married, and Milton was after her dowry. When it did not follow he proved domineering and dishonest, unresponsive to her sensuousness and her down-to-earth wit. It was a spiritual misalliance, too: her Catholicism sorted ill with his beliefs. The dramatic political and military events of the English civil war touched her life at every point, including the execution of Charles I. The Isles of Unwisdom visits a different, very Catholic world, that of the expeditions of the Spanish explorers and discoverers, near contemporaries of Milton but not emancipated by the Reformation, who come unstuck in the New World. Reconstructed is the ill-fated voyage of Alvaro de Mendana y Neya to find the Solomon Islands, popularly believed to constitute the fabled Land of Ophir, where King Solomon amassed his legendary wealth."

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Goodbye to all that and other great war writings, Robert Graves, Steven Trout, Mar 1, 2008, History, 371 pages. Bringing together three of Robert Graves' most significant writings on the meaning of the Great WarĐ²Đ,―the original 1929 edition of Goodbye to All That, the essay A Postscript to ....

Collected poems (1914-1947), Robert Graves, 1948, Literary Criticism, 239 pages. .

Sergeant Lamb S America, Robert Graves, 1986, Fiction, 336 pages. This novel takes place in the early years of the American Revolution and is based on the adventures of one Sergeant Lamb, a Dublin man in the service of His Majesty's army. It ....

Wife to Mr Milton, Robert Graves, 2011, Great Britain, 330 pages. Marie Powell is sixteen when her father marries her to the poet John Milton in payment of a debt. They move to a pretty garden-house in London, but she struggles to adjust to ....

The history of England, from the invasion of Julius CĐ"¦sar to the ..., Volume 2, David Hume, 1854, , . .

They hanged my saintly Billy the life and death of Dr. William Palmer, Robert Graves, 1957, , 312 pages. .

The Letters and Speeches of Oliver Cromwell,,,,...

The return of the cranes, John Heath-Stubbs, 2002, Literary Criticism, 72 pages. "In this collection John Heath-Stubbs's newest poems revisit the soundsГâ,,—since he is now blindĐ"â,,—of his favorite landscapes. Spending his formative years in the rural countryside ....

Alice's Adventures in Wonderland, Lewis Carroll, 1941, , 366 pages. With this is bound the author's Through the looking glass and what Alice found there..

Complete poems, Robert Graves, Feb 1, 1999, Literary Criticism, 379 pages. .

The Good Book Says-- Light Verse to Illuminate the Old Testament, Benjamin Milder, 1995, Poetry, 146 pages. .

The Islands of Unwisdom, Robert Graves, 1949, History, 328 pages. .

Watch the north wind rise, Robert Graves, 1949, Fiction, 290 pages. .

Oliver Cromwell's Letters and Speeches, Oliver Cromwell, 2010, Great Britain, 622 pages. Many of the earliest books, particularly those dating back to the 1900s and before, are now extremely scarce and increasingly expensive. We are republishing these classic works ....

Hercules, my shipmate a novel, , 1945, Fiction, 464 pages. .

Yesterday only and other poems, Robert Graves, Sep 1, 2000, Poetry, 32 pages...

The Story of Marie Powell: Wife to Mr. Milton, by Robert Graves, 1943. This historical novel was based on a true story, the life of the young wife of poet John Milton. Graves tells it from her viewpoint and paints an unflattering portrait of the man. (That Milton worked as a censor, after having famously protested when others censored him.) Summarising the novel for the Carcanet edition, Dr Simon Brittan has written that "Graves regards [Milton] as one of the heinous monsters in the English poetic pantheon. Certainly his Mrs Milton is ill-used by a distended genius. Milton's first wife was sixteen when they married. Milton was after her dowry and when it did not follow he proved a domineering and prig, unresponsive to her sensuousness or her down-to-earth wit. It was a spiritual misalliance, too: her Catholicism sorted ill with his beliefs. The dramatic political and military events of the English civil war touch her life at every point, and we witness the execution of Charles I close up. The depiction of everyday life at the time and the merciless portrait of the young Milton, are spell-binding."[1]

Geoffrey Wall has concluded that Graves's Wife to Mr. Milton is 'a relentlessly effective satire on masculine self-regard.'[2] Matthew Adams has recently written, 'Ignoring the question of whether Milton had justly or unjustly been defamed, E.M. Forster pronounced Wife to Mr Milton a thumping good read yet remained concerned that Graves's portrait had depicted only half of the man, [...]'[3] It has been noted that the English poet W.H. Auden liked to quote from Graves's Wife to Mr. Milton: "They tune the strings a little sharper at Cambridge."[4]

On a harsher note, James Macleod Sandison has reprimanded Graves's account of Milton: 'Before leaving the anti-Miltonists, I feel compelled to deplore Robert Graves' Wife to Mr. Milton: it is an unfortunate book which might do much to deepen the erroneous impression of Milton as a surly and narrow-minded puritan.'[5] In Graves's defence Ian McCormick has argued that 'The satiric reduction is a necessary one, for it appears to be part of a larger uneasiness in the text concerning the self-aggrandizement of the reasoning subject that might result in the straitjacket of the purely systematic or, at worst, the totalitarian ideologies of the modern period.'[6] This novel therefore shares a characteristic that McCormick has also identified in Graves's Antigua, Penny, Puce: 'Ultimately, Graves aetheticises history, politics and gender. there is a sportive element at work in his fiction which resists a permanent anchor.'[7]

^ Adams, Matthew. "COMPLEX JOHN MILTON John Milton: Life, Work, and Thought. By Gordon Campbell and Thomas N. Corns. The Complete Works of John Milton, volume ii, The 1671 Poems: Paradise Regain'd and Samson Agonistes. Edited by Laura Lunger Knoppers. Between Worlds: The Rhetorical Universe of Paradise Lost. By William Pallister." Essays in Criticism 60.2 (2010):

"In these true stories, the acclaimed writer Robert Graves explores the worlds of two men intent on success. Wife to Mr. Milton is an exploration into the marriage of a man the author considered one of the heinous monsters in the English poetic pantheonJohn Miltonand how his wife was ill-used by him. Milton's first wife was 16 when they married, and Milton was after her dowry. When it did not follow he proved domineering and dishonest, unresponsive to her sensuousness and her down-to-earth wit. It was a spiritual misalliance, too: her Catholicism sorted ill with his beliefs. The dramatic political and military events of the English civil war touched her life at every point, including the execution of Charles I. The Isles of Unwisdom visits a different, very Catholic world, that of the expeditions of the Spanish explorers and discoverers, near contemporaries of Milton but not emancipated by the Reformation, who come unstuck in the New World. Reconstructed is the ill-fated voyage of Alvaro de Mendana y Neya to find the Solomon Islands, popularly believed to constitute the fabled Land of Ophir, where King Solomon amassed his legendary wealth."

Andres Serrano answered arms army arquebus ashore asked Barretos Bishop Boatswain brother Cabin Callao called canoes Chief Pilot child church Colonel command confess cried dare Don Alvaro Don Diego Don Lorenzo Dona Mariana Dona Ysabel door Ensign eyes father fear Forest Hill galeot General's gentleman hand head heard heart honour husband island Isles of Solomon Jaume John John Milton Juan King King's knew Lady land laughed leave London Lord Majesty Malope Marie Marquesas Islands marriage married Matia matter Milton mother natives never night officers once Oxford Paita Parliament Pedro Fernandez Peru Powell pray replied returned Robert Pye sail sailors San Geronimo Santa Ysabel sent Sergeant ship sister soldiers soon soul stood sword tell Tiresias told took troops Trunco Uncle Jones village voice wife woman words Zara

Robert Graves was born in 1895 in London and served in World War I. Goodbye to All That: an Autobiography (1929), was published at age thirty three, and gave a gritty portrait of his experiences in the trenches. Graves edited out much of the stark reality of the book when he revised it in 1957. Although his most popular works, I, Claudius (1934) and its sequel, Claudius the God and His Wife Messalina (1935), were produced for television by the BBC in 1976 and seen in America on Masterpiece Theater, he was also famous as a poet, producing more than 50 volumes of poetry. Also a distinguished academic, Graves was a professor of English in Cairo, Egypt, in 1926, a poetry professor at Oxford in the 1960s, and a visiting lecturer at universities in England and the U.S. He wrote translations of Greek and Latin works, literary criticism, and nonfiction works on many other topics, including mythology and poetry. He lived most of his life in Majorca, Spain, and died after a protracted illness in 1985.

In broad terms, Milton is presented as the nasty, priggish Puritan; he is ambitious, selfish and misogynistic. The dehumanized portrait of a gigantic poet of the 17th century functions by showing him as an exponent of the Puritan rationalism and the systematic, at the expense of the Catholic, the folkloric, the ritualistic and the customary that collectively represent the native organic traditions.

But the gender clash between husband and wife is outlined in terms that avoid stereotypes. Accordingly, the representation of Milton betrays a fascination with ambiguity that cuts through the potential for gross simplification and reductive readings. In these terms, Milton turns out to be a slippery she-man, a phoenix, a fossil and a no-man. If there are elements of disgust there are also shades of attraction to this Tiresias-like figure. This is a multi-layered archaeological novel, with some 'Pilt Down Man' fakery thrown in; what this means is that history, like narrative, requires story-telling and it also benefits from a degree of well-crafted imaginative reconstruction.

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Please note: The books in these lists are arranged according to Library of Congress Classification order, not strictly by discipline. Religion, Psychology and Philosophy all fall into class B, for

example, but clinical psychology is found in class R with Psychiatry. The classification was originally developed in 1897 and doesn't necessarily fit well with a contemporary division of topics. The tabs chosen for the divisions reflect the LC classification.

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