

south riding winifred holtby

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Winifred Holtby (1898–1935) remains one of the most celebrated and influential British writers of the early 20th century. Her novel "South Riding," published posthumously in 1936, stands as a testament to her keen social awareness, literary talent, and compassionate portrayal of rural life and social reform. Holtby's work offers a vivid depiction of Yorkshire society, blending realism with idealism, and continues to resonate with readers and scholars alike. This article delves into the life of Winifred Holtby, explores the themes and significance of "South Riding," and examines her legacy in British literature.

Early Life and Education of Winifred Holtby

Background and Family

- Born on August 23, 1898, in Kiveton Park, South Yorkshire.
- Grew up in a modest working-class family with strong social and political awareness.
- Her father, William Holtby, was a school teacher and socialist, influencing her early worldview.
- The Holtby household was intellectually stimulating, fostering Winifred's love of reading and writing.

Educational Journey

- Attended local schools in Yorkshire, showing early promise as a student.
- Won a scholarship to the University of Oxford's St Hugh's College in 1917, one of the few women to study there at the time.
- Studied modern history, which equipped her with a keen understanding of social issues, politics, and economics.
- Her university years were formative, exposing her to diverse ideas and strengthening her commitment to social justice.

Literary Career and Personal Life

Early Works and Political Engagement

- Holtby's early writings reflected her concern with social inequality and women's rights.

- Contributed articles and essays to various socialist and feminist publications during the 1920s.
- Developed a reputation as a thoughtful and passionate writer advocating for social reform.

Partnership with Vera Brittain

- Close friendship and intellectual partnership with Vera Brittain, a renowned writer and activist.
- Their correspondence and collaboration deepened Holtby's engagement with issues of war, peace, and social justice.
- Both women shared a commitment to education, equality, and humanitarian causes.

Marriage and Later Life

- Married Geoffrey Whittam, a fellow academic, in 1932.
- Moved to Kingston upon Hull, where Holtby became involved in local cultural and social initiatives.
- Despite her relatively short life, Holtby's influence grew through her writings, activism, and mentorship.

"South Riding": Overview and Context

Publication and Reception

- Published posthumously in 1936, "South Riding" was Holtby's most ambitious novel.
- Initially received with mixed reviews but gained critical acclaim over time.
- Recognized as a classic of English literature and a powerful portrayal of rural Yorkshire life.

Setting and Plot

- Set in the fictional Yorkshire community of South Riding, a county-wide administrative district.
- Explores themes of social change, education reform, gender equality, and community resilience.
- Follows a diverse cast of characters, including Sarah Burton, the progressive headmistress; Robert Carne, a local landowner; and district officials.

Themes and Significance

- Social Justice and Reform: Highlights efforts to improve education, healthcare, and living conditions.

- Rural Life and Community: Paints a detailed picture of Yorkshire's landscapes, traditions, and struggles.
- Gender and Women's Roles: Features strong female characters challenging societal expectations.
- Political Engagement: Reflects Holtby's socialist ideals and her belief in collective action.

Literary Style and Influences

- Combines realism with nuanced character development.
- Uses regional dialect and detailed descriptions to create authenticity.
- Influenced by writers like Thomas Hardy and George Eliot, emphasizing social consciousness and moral complexity.

Impact and Legacy of "South Riding"

Critical Reception and Literary Importance

- Recognized as a significant contribution to English social realism.
- Praised for its vivid characters, depth of social insight, and compassionate portrayal of community life.
- Considered a pioneering work in depicting rural Britain with honesty and empathy.

Adaptations and Cultural Influence

- Adapted into a successful BBC television series in 2011, bringing Holtby's work to new audiences.
- Inspired subsequent writers interested in regional stories, social reform, and women's empowerment.
- Its themes remain relevant today, reflecting ongoing debates about education, gender, and social equity.

Holtby's Enduring Legacy

- Recognized as a pioneering female novelist who combined literary excellence with social activism.
- Inspired future generations of writers, feminists, and social reformers.
- Her life and works exemplify the power of literature to effect social change and foster understanding.

Winifred Holtby's Contributions to Literature and Society

Advocacy for Social Justice

- Holtby used her writing platform to advocate for social reforms, especially in education and gender equality.
- Her involvement in local politics and activism complemented her literary pursuits.

Role as a Female Writer

- Broke barriers for women in literature and academia.
- Demonstrated that women could produce powerful, socially conscious literature.
- Her career paved the way for future women writers to explore regional and social themes.

Educational and Cultural Impact

- Fostered appreciation for Yorkshire's cultural landscape.
- Mentored young writers and activists, emphasizing the importance of community engagement.
- Her work continues to be studied in universities, especially in courses on British social history and literature.

Conclusion: The Enduring Spirit of Winifred Holtby and "South Riding"

Winifred Holtby's "South Riding" stands as a monumental achievement in British literature, capturing the complexities of rural society while advocating for social justice and reform. Holtby's life, cut tragically short at the age of 36, exemplifies a profound dedication to her ideals through her writing, activism, and mentorship. Her work remains a vital reminder of the importance of community, compassion, and the relentless pursuit of equality. Today, Holtby's legacy endures not only in her literary masterpieces but also as a beacon for social consciousness and female empowerment. As readers and scholars continue to explore her contributions, Winifred Holtby's voice remains a powerful force urging us to reflect on our society and strive for a more just and compassionate world.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the significance of 'South Riding' by Winifred Holtby?

'South Riding' is considered a classic of British literature, highlighting social issues and community life in Yorkshire during the 1930s. It is celebrated for its vivid characters and insightful portrayal of rural society.

How does Winifred Holtby's 'South Riding' reflect social themes of its time?

The novel addresses themes such as social inequality, education reform, gender roles, and community cohesion, offering a critique of the societal structures in 1930s Britain.

Was Winifred Holtby involved in any adaptations of 'South Riding'?

Yes, 'South Riding' has been adapted into various formats, including a 2011 BBC television series and radio dramas, helping to keep Holtby's work relevant to contemporary audiences.

What are some key characters in Winifred Holtby's 'South Riding'?

Notable characters include Sarah Burton, a progressive headmistress; Robert Carne, a local politician; and district officer Coggleshall, each representing different social perspectives within the community.

How does Winifred Holtby's background influence her writing of 'South Riding'?

Holtby's Yorkshire roots and her experiences as a woman involved in social issues deeply inform the novel's focus on community, social reform, and gender equality.

Why is 'South Riding' considered an important feminist novel?

The novel features strong female characters like Sarah Burton, advocating for education and social progress, reflecting Holtby's commitment to gender equality and women's rights.

Where can I find academic analyses of Winifred Holtby's 'South Riding'?

Academic analyses can be found in literary journals, university library collections, and online platforms such as JSTOR and Google Scholar, providing in-depth insights into the novel's themes and historical context.

Additional Resources

South Riding Winifred Holtby: An In-Depth Literary and Cultural Examination

Introduction to Winifred Holtby and South Riding

Winifred Holtby (1898–1935) remains one of the most compelling voices in early 20th-century British literature. Her novel *South Riding*, published posthumously in 1936, stands as her magnum opus—a sweeping, richly textured portrayal of life in post-World War I Yorkshire. The novel is celebrated not only for its vivid characters and intricate plotlines but also for its incisive commentary on social change, gender roles, and community resilience. This review delves into the multifaceted aspects of *South Riding*, exploring its themes, characters, historical context, and enduring legacy.

Context and Background of South Riding

Historical and Social Setting

South Riding is set in the fictional Yorkshire district of the same name, during the interwar period—a time marked by economic hardship, social reform, and shifting political landscapes. The novel is rooted in Holtby's personal experiences and observations of Yorkshire society, capturing the tension between tradition and progress. The 1920s and early 1930s saw significant developments such as:

- Post-war societal upheaval
- Rise of socialism and Labour politics
- Education reforms and debates
- Class distinctions and rural-urban divides

Holtby's depiction of this era offers an authentic glimpse into the struggles and aspirations of ordinary people.

Biographical Influences

Winifred Holtby was deeply engaged with social issues, inspired by her own background as a Yorkshire woman and her academic pursuits. Her close friendship with Virginia Woolf and association with the Bloomsbury Group provided her with intellectual stimulation, though her work remained rooted in regional and social realism. Holtby's untimely death at age 36 meant *South Riding* was completed shortly before her passing, adding a poignant layer to

the novel's enduring significance.

Plot Overview and Structure

South Riding weaves multiple storylines around a central figure: Sarah Burton, an idealistic and determined headmistress committed to educational reform. The novel's structure is expansive, featuring a broad cast of characters from different social classes, professions, and backgrounds.

Key Plot Elements:

- Sarah Burton's efforts to modernize education in South Riding
- Robert Carne, a progressive landowner and local politician
- Alfred Huggins, a working-class mechanic and union activist
- Mrs. Beddows, a shopkeeper embodying traditional values
- District conflicts, personal romances, and social tensions

The narrative moves fluidly between these characters, illustrating their personal growth, struggles, and interactions within the community.

Major Themes Explored in South Riding

Social Change and Progress

One of Holtby's central preoccupations is the tension between tradition and progress. The novel champions social reform, highlighting efforts to improve education, working conditions, and social justice. Sarah Burton's advocacy for better schooling symbolizes the hope for a more equitable future.

Notable points:

- Educational reform as a vehicle for social mobility
- The conflict between the old order and new ideas
- The role of local politics in shaping community development

Gender and Women's Roles

South Riding offers a nuanced exploration of gender dynamics in early 20th-century Britain.

Insights include:

- Sarah Burton as a progressive female professional challenging gender stereotypes
- The depiction of domestic roles versus public engagement
- Romantic relationships that challenge traditional expectations
- Female characters' pursuit of independence and influence

Holtby's portrayal of women reflects her own feminist beliefs and her desire to portray women as active agents of change.

Community and Identity

The novel underscores the importance of community bonds and local identity.

Key aspects:

- The interdependence of characters' lives
- The significance of local traditions and history
- Collective resilience in the face of adversity

Holtby emphasizes that individual growth is intertwined with community welfare.

Class and Social Hierarchies

While advocating for social reform, the novel also critically examines class distinctions.

Highlights:

- The portrayal of working-class characters like Alfred Huggins
- The disparities between landowners and laborers
- The potential for social mobility and change

Character Analysis

Sarah Burton

As the protagonist, Sarah embodies the ideals of progress, compassion, and resilience. She is depicted as:

- An educated woman committed to reform
- A leader who navigates social and political challenges

- Compassionate but pragmatic, balancing idealism with realism

Her character arc reflects her dedication to transforming her community through education and activism.

Robert Carne

A progressive landowner and politician, Robert represents the emerging new leadership willing to challenge traditional authority. His traits include:

- Charisma and dedication to social justice
- Romantic tension with Sarah
- A symbol of hope for reform-minded aristocracy

Mrs. Beddows

A shopkeeper embodying traditional values, Mrs. Beddows offers a contrasting perspective to the reformers. She:

- Represents the conservative, community-centered way of life
- Acts as a moral anchor in the novel
- Contrasts with the more progressive characters

Alfred Huggins

A working-class mechanic and union activist, Alfred symbolizes the labor movement and the push for workers' rights. His traits include:

- Passionate advocacy for social justice
- Personal struggles balancing work and family
- His involvement highlights the class conflicts in the novel

Literary Style and Techniques

Narrative Voice and Perspective

Holtby employs a third-person omniscient narrative, allowing insight into multiple characters' thoughts and motivations. This technique:

- Creates a rich, multi-layered depiction of community life
- Offers a balanced view of different social strata
- Enhances thematic depth by contrasting perspectives

Realism and Regionalism

The novel's detailed descriptions and authentic dialects underscore Holtby's commitment to regional realism. Her vivid portrayal of Yorkshire landscapes, dialects, and customs immerses readers in the setting.

Symbolism and Imagery

Holtby uses symbolic elements, such as:

- The changing seasons reflecting societal transformation
- The school building as a symbol of hope and progress
- Nature imagery emphasizing resilience and renewal

Critical Reception and Legacy

Initial Reception

South Riding was published posthumously but received widespread acclaim for its social realism and compassionate storytelling. Critics praised Holtby's ability to portray community complexities and her optimistic outlook.

Modern Appreciation

Today, South Riding is regarded as a classic of British literature, noted for its:

- Insight into interwar Britain
- Feminist perspectives
- Representation of social reform movements

Its adaptation into television series in 2011 and 2013 further cemented its cultural significance, introducing Holtby's work to new audiences.

Influence and Significance

The novel has influenced subsequent writers and social commentators interested in regionalism, feminism, and social justice. Holtby's portrayal of strong, active women remains relevant, and her depiction of community resilience continues to resonate.

Conclusion: The Enduring Power of South Riding

Winifred Holtby's *South Riding* stands as a testament to the power of literature to mirror societal change and inspire hope. Its richly drawn characters, nuanced themes, and vivid regional setting make it an enduring masterpiece that captures the complexities of human nature and community life in a transformative era. Holtby's work remains a vital contribution to British social and literary history, offering timeless insights into progress, community, and the enduring human spirit.

Final thoughts: Whether approached as a historical novel, a feminist work, or a social commentary, *South Riding* continues to hold a mirror to society's hopes and struggles. Holtby's compassionate storytelling and keen social insight ensure her novel remains relevant and inspiring decades after its publication.

[South Riding Winifred Holtby](#)

south riding winifred holtby: *South Riding* Winifred Holtby, 2011-03-15 The community of South Riding, like the rest of the country, lives in the long shadow of war. Blighted by recession and devastated by the loss, they must also come to terms with significant social change. Forward-thinking and ambitious, Sarah Burton is the embodiment of such change. After the death of her fiancé, she returns home to Yorkshire focused on her career as headmistress of the local school. But not everyone can embrace the new social order. Robert Carne, a force of conservatism, stands firmly against Sarah. A tormented man, he carries a heavy burden that locks him in the past. As the villagers of South Riding adjust to Sarah's arrival and face the changing world, emotions run high, prejudices are challenged and community spirit is tested. Anna Maxwell Martin (Bleak House) and David Morrissey lead an outstanding cast in this rich and panoramic portrait of community in turmoil. Winifred Holtby's little-known and hard-to-find literary gem is a magnificent masterpiece, to be joyfully rediscovered by a whole new generation of readers.

south riding winifred holtby: *South Riding* Winifred Holtby, 1988 When Sarah Burton returns to her hometown as headmistress she is full of ambition, determined to create a great school and to inspire her girls to take all they can from life. But in the aftermath of the First World War, the country is in depression and ideals are hard won. Lydia Holly, the scholarship girl from the shacks, is the most brilliant student Sarah has ever taught, but when her mother's health fails, her education must be sacrificed - there is nobody else to care for the children. Robert Carne of Maythorpe Hall stands for everything Sarah despises: his family has farmed the South Riding for generations, their

position uncontested. Yet Sarah cannot help being drawn to this proud, haunted - and almost ruined - man. *South Riding* is a rich, panoramic novel, bringing vividly to life a rural community on the brink of change.

south riding winifred holtby: *From South Riding to Dove House* Mary Hopper, 1998

south riding winifred holtby: *Winifred Holtby's Social Vision* Lisa Regan, 2015-10-06

Winifred Holtby (1898–1935) is best-known today for her friendship with fellow feminist and pacifist Vera Brittain and for her last novel, *South Riding*. This is the first monograph to provide a literary criticism of Holtby's social philosophy and presents in-depth readings of all her major works as well as some of her less well-known writing.

south riding winifred holtby: *South Riding* Winifred Holtby, 1938

south riding winifred holtby: *Modernism and Physical Illness* Peter Fifield, 2020-07-08 T. S.

Eliot memorably said that separation of the man who suffers from the mind that creates is the root of good poetry. This book argues that this is wrong. Beginning from Virginia Woolf's 'On Being Ill', it demonstrates that modernism is, on the contrary, invested in physical illness as a subject, method, and stylizing force. Experience of physical ailments, from the fleeting to the fatal, the familiar to the unusual, structures the writing of the modernists, both as sufferers and onlookers. Illness reorients the relation to, and appearance of, the world, making it appear newly strange; it determines the character of human interactions and models of behaviour. As a topic, illness requires new ways of writing and thinking, altered ideas of the subject, and a re-examination of the roles of invalids and carers. This book reads the work five authors, who are also known for their illness, hypochondria, or medical work: D. H. Lawrence, Virginia Woolf, T. S. Eliot, Dorothy Richardson, and Winifred Holtby. It overturns the assumption that illness is a simple obstacle to creativity and instead argues that it is a subject of careful thought and cultural significance.

south riding winifred holtby: *Curious Tales of Old East Yorkshire* Howard Peach, 2001

'Curious Tales of Old East Yorkshire' is a guide to the history, folklore, traditions & social institutions of the old East Riding, arranged in 14 diverse chapters. Anecdotes are included on events, personalities, buildings, customs & domestic matters.

south riding winifred holtby: *South Riding, Etc. (New Edition.)* Winifred Holtby, 1966

south riding winifred holtby: *Corruption in Urban Politics and Society, Britain 1780–1950*

John Smith, 2017-05-15 Despite much recent interest in the area of urban governance, little work has been done on the changing ethical standards of urban leaderships, 'governing' institutions or the policing of public life. Yet the issue of ethical standards in public life has become a central concern in contemporary public discourse; with issues of public probity, moral order and personal standards re-emerging as central features of political debate. This volume places these debates into their historical perspective by examining the linkages between processes of 'modernisation', urbanisation and the ethical standards of governance and public life. It considers how ethical debates arise as a result of differential access to positions of authority and from competition for public resources. The contributions are drawn from a wide range of scholarly and disciplinary backgrounds and provide a broad analysis of the phenomenon of corruption, assessing how debates about corruption arose, the narratives used to criticise established modes of public conduct and their consequences for urban leadership.

south riding winifred holtby: *English Fiction in the 1930s* Chris Hopkins, 2006-12-07 This

study approaches the fiction of the 1930s through critical debates about genre, language and history, setting these in their original context, and discussing the generic forms most favoured by novelists at the time. Chris Hopkins uses a series of case studies of texts to draw on, develop or explore the boundaries, contemporary usefulness and complexities of particular prose genres. Generic debates and the political-aesthetic effects of different kinds of representation were live issues as discursive struggles and negotiations took place between modernist and realist modes, between high, middle and lowbrow categorisations of culture, between literature and mass culture, and between different conceptions of the role of the writer, politics and nationality, sexuality and gender identities. Chris Hopkins draws both on well-known texts and on novels which have only

recently begun to be discussed by critics of the thirties - particularly those by women writers whose work has still not been related very clearly to the literary and political debates of the period. Organised in five sections each focusing on major genres, he takes a wide range of novels as case studies and discusses their uses of generic forms, relating them to other examples and to their historical, political and cultural contexts.

south riding winifred holtby: *The Centre of Things* Christopher Harvie, 2005-08-02 An historical and critical work on the role of fiction in British politics, focusing on Disraeli, Galt, Eliot, Trollope, Wells and Cary among others. This witty book is the first treatment of its subject for nearly seventy years.

south riding winifred holtby: *The Politics of 1930s British Literature* Natasha Periyar, 2018-06-14 Winner of the 2018 International Standing Conference for the History of Education's First Book Award Drawing on a rich array of archival sources and historical detail, *The Politics of 1930s British Literature* tells the story of a school-minded decade and illuminates new readings of the politics and aesthetics of 1930s literature. In a period of shifting political claims, educational policy shaped writers' social and gender ideals. This book explores how a wide array of writers including Virginia Woolf, W.H. Auden, George Orwell, Winifred Holtby and Graham Greene were informed by their pedagogic work. It considers the ways in which education influenced writers' analysis of literary style and their conception of future literary forms. *The Politics of 1930s British Literature* argues that to those perennial symbols of the 1930s, the loudspeaker and the gramophone, should be added the textbook and the blackboard.

south riding winifred holtby: *Atlas of Imagined Places* Matt Brown, Rhys B. Davies, 2021-09-28 WINNER, Edward Stanford Travel Writing Awards 2022: Illustrated Travel Book of the Year. HIGHLY COMMENDED, British Cartographic Society Awards 2022. From Stephen King's Salem's Lot to the superhero land of Wakanda, from Lilliput of Gulliver's Travels to Springfield in *The Simpsons*, this is a wondrous atlas of imagined places around the world. Locations from film, tv, literature, myths, comics and video games are plotted in a series of beautiful vintage-looking maps. The maps feature fictional buildings, towns, cities and countries plus mountains and rivers, oceans and seas. Ever wondered where the Bates Motel was based? Or Bedford Falls in *It's a Wonderful Life*? The authors have taken years to research the likely geography of thousands of popular culture locations that have become almost real to us. Sometimes these are easy to work out, but other times a bit of detective work is needed and the authors have been those detectives. By looking at the maps, you'll find that the revolution at Animal Farm happened next to Winnie the Pooh's home. Each location has an extended index entry plus coordinates so you can find it on the maps. Illuminating essays accompanying the maps give a great insight into the stories behind the imaginary places, from Harry Potter's wizardry to Stone Age Bedrock in the Flintstones. A stunning map collection of invented geography and topography drawn from the world's imagination. Fascinating and beautiful, this is an essential book for any popular culture fan and map enthusiast.

south riding winifred holtby: *The Regional Novel in Britain and Ireland* K. D. M. Snell, 1998-12-10 *The Regional Novel In Britain and Ireland, 1800-1990* will be of interest to literary and social historians as well as cultural critics.

south riding winifred holtby: *Landscape and Englishness* David Matless, 2016-09-15 As David Matless argues in this book—updated in this accessible, pocket edition—landscape has been central to definitions of Englishness for centuries. It is the aspect of English life where visions of the past, present, and future have met in debates over questions of national identity, disputes over history and modernity, and ideals of citizenship and the body. Extensively illustrated, *Landscape and Englishness* explores just how important the aesthetics of Britain's cities and countryside have been to its people. Matless examines a wide range of material, including topographical guides, health manuals, paintings, poetry, architectural polemics, photography, nature guides, and novels. Taking readers to the interwar period, he explores how England negotiated the modern and traditional, the urban and rural, the progressive and preservationist, in its decisions over how to develop the countryside, re-plan cities, and support various cultures of leisure and citizenship. Tracing the role

of landscape to Englishness from then up until the present day, he shows how familiar notions of heritage in landscape are products of the immediate post-war era, and he unveils how the present always resonates with the past.

south riding winifred holtby: AMONGST FARM HORSES Stephen Caunce, 2016-08-26 This book is a unique and detailed account of a rural way of life formed from extensive academic research and oral testimony recorded in the 1970's. It tells of the farm servant system in East Yorkshire which was central to the rural economy in that area for men born before 1900. Boys as young as 13 would be looking after and working with as many as 4 heavy horses in a team. Their lives would be spent living in the farmhouse and would continue that way until they married. Rural history forms an essential part of national history, with different parts of the UK having very varied employment systems. This book describes how, although having roots deep in history, the East Riding farming system was thoroughly modern and profitable, paying good wages to its workers. Telling the stories of their lives in their own words, this book brings to life the intimate details of a distant way of living and working.

south riding winifred holtby: Transnational Television Drama Elke Weissmann, 2012-08-30 This history of British and American television drama since 1970 charts the increased transnationalisation of the two production systems. From *The Forsyte Saga* to *Roots* to *Episodes*, it highlights the close relationship that drives innovation and quality on both sides of the Atlantic.

south riding winifred holtby: Practical Utopia Anna Neima, 2022-04-28 Dartington Hall was a social experiment of kaleidoscopic vitality, set up in Devon in 1925 by a fabulously wealthy American heiress, Dorothy Elmhirst (née Whitney), and her Yorkshire-born husband, Leonard. It quickly achieved international fame with its progressive school, craft production and wide-ranging artistic endeavours. Dartington was a residential community of students, teachers, farmers, artists and craftsmen committed to revivifying life in the countryside. It was also a socio-cultural laboratory, where many of the most brilliant interwar minds came to test out their ideas about art, society, spirituality and rural regeneration. To this day, Dartington Hall remains a symbol of countercultural experimentation and a centre for arts, ecology and social justice. *Practical Utopia* presents a compelling portrait of a group of people trying to live out their ideals, set within an international framework, and demonstrates Dartington's tangled affinities with other unity-seeking projects across Britain and in India and America.

south riding winifred holtby: The Novel Cure Ella Berthoud, Susan Elderkin, 2014-12-30 Delightful... elegant prose and discussions that span the history of 2,000 years of literature.—*Publisher's Weekly* A novel is a story transmitted from the novelist to the reader. It offers distraction, entertainment, and an opportunity to unwind or focus. But it can also be something more powerful—a way to learn about how to live. Read at the right moment in your life, a novel can—quite literally—change it. *The Novel Cure* is a reminder of that power. To create this apothecary, the authors have trawled two thousand years of literature for novels that effectively promote happiness, health, and sanity, written by brilliant minds who knew what it meant to be human and wrote their life lessons into their fiction. Structured like a reference book, readers simply look up their ailment, be it agoraphobia, boredom, or a midlife crisis, and are given a novel to read as the antidote. Bibliotherapy does not discriminate between pains of the body and pains of the head (or heart). Aware that you've been cowardly? Pick up *To Kill a Mockingbird* for an injection of courage. Experiencing a sudden, acute fear of death? Read *One Hundred Years of Solitude* for some perspective on the larger cycle of life. Nervous about throwing a dinner party? Ali Smith's *There but for The* will convince you that yours could never go that wrong. Whatever your condition, the prescription is simple: a novel (or two), to be read at regular intervals and in nice long chunks until you finish. Some treatments will lead to a complete cure. Others will offer solace, showing that you're not the first to experience these emotions. *The Novel Cure* is also peppered with useful lists and sidebars recommending the best novels to read when you're stuck in traffic or can't fall asleep, the most important novels to read during every decade of life, and many more. Brilliant in concept and deeply satisfying in execution, *The Novel Cure* belongs on everyone's bookshelf and in every

medicine cabinet. It will make even the most well-read fiction aficionado pick up a novel he's never heard of, and see familiar ones with new eyes. Mostly, it will reaffirm literature's ability to distract and transport, to resonate and reassure, to change the way we see the world and our place in it. This appealing and helpful read is guaranteed to double the length of a to-read list and become a go-to reference for those unsure of their reading identities or who are overwhelmed by the sheer number of books in the world.—Library Journal

south riding winifred holtby: Best of British Jeffrey Richards, Anthony Aldgate, 1999-12-31
The new, revised and expanded paperback edition of this widely-used textbook for film history brings up to date its authors' demonstration of how a close study of films in their historical and cultural settings can enrich our understanding of both cinema and historical events. It introduces three new chapters, one focusing on The Blue Lamp and changes in cinema's depiction of the police from that key 1949 film up to the 1960s, another on the 'British New Wave' centring on The Loneliness of the Long Distance Runner, and a third which, starting from Scandal and its recreation of the 1960s Profumo scandal, goes on to examine the 'retro' fashion for covering crimes of the 1940s, '50s and '60s in films of the 1980s like Let Him Have It, Dance with a Stranger and Chicago Joe and the Showgirl. This edition has a new, accessible format and provides a valuable Resource Section for teachers, students and scholars.

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