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INFALLIBLE IN SEARCH OF THE REAL. GEORGE ELIOT

Article
Press

INFALLIBLE IN SEARCH OF THE REAL GEORGE ELIOT

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1697 quotes from George Eliot: 'Destiny stands by sarcastic with our dramatis personae folded in her hand.', 'She hates everything that is not what she longs for.', and 'We all remember epochs in our experience when some dear expectation dies, or some new motive is born.' For the growing good of the world is partly dependent on unhistoric acts and on all those Dorotheas who live faithfully their hidden lives and rest in unvisited tombs. Middlemarch • George Eliot. 23 likes. George Eliot, born Mary Ann Evans, was an English writer of the Victorian era who covered issues of class, religion, and complex character psychology. At one point, a man named Joseph Liggins claimed that he was the real George Eliot. In order to head off more of these imposters and satisfy public curiosity, Eliot revealed herself soon after. Her slightly scandalous private life surprised many, but fortunately, it did not affect the popularity of her work. On the 200th anniversary of George Eliot's birth, Hephzibah Anderson explores how the author was as revolutionary in life as in her novel writing. Eliot's novels will always be her single greatest achievement, and they stand independent of the passion and pain that nourished them and marked her days. All the same, it's impossible to overstate the tenacity and sheer nerve required to transform herself from her father's provincial "little wench" to a leading urban intellectual and this at a time when feminine ambition was so circumscribed by gender, never mind the headaches, insecurity and depression that dogged her. George Eliot's translation of David Strauss's controversial work *The Life of Jesus* appeared in 1846; Strauss had argued that we must reject the literal truth of the gospels and accept them as "æmyths," as archetypal constructs of the social imagination. In 1854 she also produced a translation of Ludwig Feuerbach's *The Essence of Christianity*. Eliot artfully takes this opportunity to connect the principles of her realism with a certain type of religious attitude. She contrasts her character Mr. Irwine, rector of Broxton, with his successor, the "zealous" Mr. Ryde, who "insisted strongly on the doctrines of the Reformation" (154).