

The Collected Letters of Katherine Mansfield: Volume Four: 1920-1921:

4

By Katherine Mansfield

The letters in this volume cover the eighteen months Katherine Mansfield spent in England, France, and Switzerland from May 1920 to the end of 1921. It is the period of her finest stories, and when her life took its most decisive turn. The qualities of her earlier correspondence remain undiminished--the precision and directness, the intelligence and wit, the dark incisiveness and sheer fun. Above all, these letters attest to her considerable courage, against increasingly adverse odds, as she approached the final years of her life.

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"...this collection of [Mansfield's] letters provides, finally, an accurate and reliable foundation for Mansfield scholarship."--*English Literature in Transition*

From the Back Cover

The letters in this volume cover the eighteen months Katherine Mansfield spent in England, France and Switzerland from May 1920 to the end of 1921. It is the period of her finest stories, and when her life took its most decisive turn. There is a subtle but unmistakable change in her expectations, a new 'spiritual' insistence that is both elusive and resolute. From her Chekovian acceptance that 'they are cutting down the cherry trees' she derives a tough existential directness: 'the little boat enters the dark, fearful gulf ... Nobody listens. The shadowy figure rows on. One ought to sit still and uncover one's eyes.' There is a determined push - not always successful - towards a necessary honesty, as much as to artistic achievement; while those qualities of her earlier correspondence remain undiminished - the precision and directness, the intelligence and wit, the dark incisiveness as much as sheer fun. Above all, perhaps, these letters comprise a record of very considerable courage, against increasingly adverse odds, as they approach the final years of her life.

About the Author

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