Images: <https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/5/5e/The_Yellow_Book_-_07.djvu/page1-349px-The_Yellow_Book_-_07.djvu.jpg>

Netta [Janet] Syrett (17 March 1865-15 December 1943)

Born in Ramsgate, 1865

Best known for \_Portrait of a Rebel\_ (1929) which was made into the 1936 Katherine Hepburn film \_*A Woman Rebels\_*.

Writer and playwright Netta [Janet] Syrett was born at 23 Harbour Street, [Ramsgate]( /dickens/19c-ramsgate/) in 1865 and lived in the town to age eleven, when she was sent off to school. Her connection with [Ramsgate]( /dickens/19c-ramsgate/) seems to have had little impact on her life, though her memoirs record a happy childhood in a relatively prosperous family. She was the eldest of eleven children (two of her sisters, Mabel and Nellie [Ellen] Syrett became renowned artists who illustrated her works) and niece to the prolific writer and journalist Grant Allen.

She wrote 38 novels, 20 children’s books, 4 plays and 18 short stories which were published in many of the popular periodicals of the period. She is now particularly remembered as a New Woman writer for her depictions of independent heroines who reject traditional Victorian gender roles, and through her contributions to the \_*Yellow Book\_.* She recorded her memoirs in *\_The Sheltering Tree\_* in 1939.

Article written by Alyson Hunt.

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