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| Hall, Radclyffe (1880-1943) |
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| Radclyffe Hall was a British novelist, poet and lyricist. A contemporary of the Bloomsbury Group and proponent of Havelock Ellis' sexological theories, Hall is best known for the ground-breaking novel of sexual inversion, *The Well of Loneliness* (1928). The novel was the centre of a landmark obscenity trial, and has continued to attract controversy. Its depiction of inversion has been both lauded and criticized by feminist, queer and trans\* theorists.  Hall was born Marguerite Antonia Radclyffe-Hall on August 12, 1880 to wealthy parents who divorced in 1883. She briefly attended King's College London and spent a year studying in Germany. In 1912, Hall converted to Catholicism with her then-partner, the singer Mabel Batten. At Batten’s request, Hall did not serve in the women’s ambulance corps during the Great War (Baker). However, a number of Hall’s fictional characters find autonomy and sexual identity through their war service. |
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| Further reading:  (Baker)  (Dellamora)  (Palatable Poisons: Critical Perspectives on The Well of Loneliness)  (Newton)  (Rule)  (Troubridge) |