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| Barnes, Djuna (1892-1982) |
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| Djuna Barnes (1892-1982) was a significant U.S. American literary figure of Paris of the 1920s and 30s, but became a recluse of New York’s Patchin Place in the 1940s, ending her life in obscure poverty. She is best known for her experimental novel *Nightwood,* one of the most influential works of modernist fiction, and for her caustic wit. Barnes worked as a poet, journalist, illustrator, playwright, reviewer, and novelist. Her most recognized writings include *The Book of Repulsive Women* (produced 1915), *Ryder* (1928), *Ladies Almanack* (1928), *Nightwood* (1936), *The Antiphon* (1958), and *Creatures in an Alphabet* (1982).  Barnes’s first novel, *Ryder* (1928), details 50 years of the fictional Ryder family; the same year, *Ladies Almanack*, understood as a *roman à clef* novel parodying participants of Natalie Barney’s salon, was privately published. Many of the qualities of satire, dark humor, and surrealism for which Barnes is known are visible in *Ryder* and *Ladies Almanack.* But it is *Nightwood,* Barnes's third novel, that critics see as her most successful work. |
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