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| University of Glasgow | | | |

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| **Your article** |
| Boyle, Kay (1902-1992) |
| **[Enter any *variant forms* of your headword – OPTIONAL]** |
| Kay Boyle was a novelist, short story writer, poet, essayist and political activist. Born in St Paul, Minnesota, she married a Frenchman, Richard Brault, in 1922, and moved to France with him the following year. She then lived in Europe for most of the next twenty years, and her early novels frequently reflect her own experiences as an expatriate. Languid and impressionistic in style, her early prose work focuses on relationships between men and women. In later life she also became heavily involved in politics and her work took on a more urgent social tenor; for example, the 1936 novel *Death of a Man* alerted readers to the threat of Nazism. |
| Kay Boyle was a novelist, short story writer, poet, essayist and political activist. Born in St Paul, Minnesota, she married a Frenchman, Richard Brault, in 1922, and moved to France with him the following year. She then lived in Europe for most of the next twenty years, and her early novels frequently reflect her own experiences as an expatriate. Languid and impressionistic in style, her early prose work focuses on relationships between men and women. In later life she also became heavily involved in politics and her work took on a more urgent social tenor; for example, the 1936 novel *Death of a Man* alerted readers to the threat of Nazism.  File: Kay Boyle photographed by Man Ray in 1931.jpg  Kay Boyle 1931  Source: Image available at <http://www.angryfilmmaker.com/dangerous-kay-boyle/kay-boyle-photos/kay-man-ray-photo-1931/>  Boyle remained a vigorous political campaigner throughout her life. She was most celebrated in her lifetime for her short stories, and won the O. Henry prize in 1935, for ‘The White Horses of Vienna’, and in 1941, for ‘Defeat’. Her best known work is *Being Geniuses Together*; begun by the author and publisher Robert McAlmon in 1934, Boyle revised and added alternate chapters after McAlmon’s death. The book chronicles the literary and artistic milieu of Paris in the 1920s, in which Boyle was a central figure.  File: ‘Revolution of the Word’ manifesto, published in 1929.jpg  ‘Revolution of the Word’ manifesto  Source: Boyle was a signatory to the radical ‘Revolution of the Word’ manifesto, published in 1929 in the avant-garde literary journal *Transition* to which she was a regular contributor. Cannot find image on contributor’s provided link <http://clayandres.blogspot.co.uk/2010/12/transition-manifesto-or-i-like-idealism.html> I did find a link for the image on another blog: <http://isola-di-rifiuti.blogspot.com.au/2012/03/bibbler-and-dub.html> Selected List of Works *Process* (1924; first published 2001)  *Short Stories* (1929)  *Wedding Day and Other Stories* (1930)  *Plagued by the Nightingale* (1931)  *Year Before Last* (1932)  *My Next Bride* (1934)  *Death of a Man* (1936)  *Primer for Combat* (1942)  *Avalanche* (1944)  *A Frenchman Must Die* (1946)  *The Smoking Mountain: Stories of Germany During the Occupation* (1951)  *Generation Without Farewell* (1960)  *Being Geniuses Together* (1966)  *The Underground Woman* (1975) |
| Further reading:  (Austenfeld)  (Elkins)  (Elkins, Critical Essays on Kay Boyle)  (Mellen)  (Spanier) |