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West's World: The Extraordinary Life of Dame Rebecca West

By Gibb, Lorna.

Pan. 1 Paperback(s), 2013. soft. Book Condition: New. Born Cicely Fairfield in 1892, Rebecca West was a young woman and a budding actress when she changed her name to that of the feminist heroine in Ibsen's play Rosmersholm. West became a towering figure in the British literary landscape, best known for such works as *Black Lamb and Grey Falcon*, *A Train of Powder*, and her "Aubrey trilogy" of autobiographical novels. She was a passionate suffragist and a socialist, and her long career as a writer began when she was barely out of her teens as did her notorious affair with H.G. Wells, which resulted in a son, Anthony, whose relationship with his mother was stormy at best. Lorna Gibb, also the biographer of Lady Hester Stanhope, explores the relationships in West's life, offering a vivid and insightful look at the woman behind the reputation. "In this calm, well-researched biography, [the author] does an excellent job of reminding us why West was so ahead of her time: she burst through the glass ceiling despite wreaking emotional havoc in the process." *Mail on Sunday* (London) 320.



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