

# AFTER THE FALL

JOSEPHINE DONOVAN



The Demeter-Persephone Myth in  
Wharton, Cather, and Glasgow

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**After the Fall**-Josephine Donovan 2010-11-01 A continuation of Josephine Donovan's exploration of American women's literary traditions, begun with *New England Local Color Literature: A Women's Tradition*, which treats the nineteenth-century realists, this work analyzes the writing

of major women writers of the early twentieth century--- Edith Wharton, Willa Cather, and Ellen Glasgow. The author sees the Demeter-Persephone myth as central to these writers' thematics, but interprets the myth in terms of the historical transitions taking place in turn-of-the-century America. Donovan focuses on the changing relationship between mothers and daughters--- in particular

upon the "new women's" rebellion against the traditional women's culture of their nineteenth-century mothers (both literary and literal). An introductory chapter traces the male-supremacist ideologies that formed the intellectual climate in which these women wrote. Reorienting Wharton, Cather, and Glasgow within women's literary traditions produces major reinterpretations of their works, including such masterpieces as *Ethan Frome*, *Summer*, *My Antonia*, *Barren Ground*, and others. Josephine Donovan's books include *Feminist Theory: The Intellectual Traditions of American Feminism*; *New England Local Color Literature: A Women's Tradition*; and *Sarah Orne Jewett*. She is on the faculty of the University of Maine.

**The Demeter-Persephone Myth as Writing Ritual in the Lives of Literary Women**

Jana Rivers Norton  
2017-01-06 This volume explores the life stories of Elizabeth Bishop, Virginia

Woolf, Alice James, and Edith Wharton, whose individuation process mirrored Demeter/Persephone's mythic journey from abduction and rage to purposeful reconciliation. These authors often courted humiliation and consequent exile by voicing what others did not want to acknowledge, yet each took restorative action to discover and preserve emotional and mental wellbeing. Writing during the 19th and early 20th centuries when an association between female authors and physical ailments, neurasthenia, hysteria, and other nervous complaints by the medical paternity reflected how society in general understood mental illness, as well as the narrative perceptions of women, Bishop, Woolf, James and Wharton, claimed personal autonomy by speaking truth about sorrow and suffering in their lives. Despite restrictions and limiting gender norms, each author continuously recast painful experiences of loss, abuse and mental illness, as fodder for the imagination to forge lasting literary careers. The book emphasizes the

therapeutic value of narrative disclosure and its ability to yield a deeper understanding of the impact of childhood trauma and adversity on women writers, and how their creative response shaped modern culture. As such, it contextualizes trauma as lived experience for each writer, along with current research on early loss and mourning, childhood abuse, and family systems theory, in order to appreciate more fully how writing as ritual may help transform mental and emotional debility.

### **Persephone's Fall**-Tiago

Lameiras 2018-05-26 Legend has it the Greek goddess of springtime and rebirth, Persephone, daughter of Zeus and Demeter, was one day napped by Hades, Ruler of the Underworld, after sighting her for the first time and immediately falling in love with her, as she painted flowers by a body of water, accompanied by the Oceanids, and Artemis and Athena, her sisters. There is little agreement as to where 'The Rape of Proserpina' (as she became known in Ancient

Rome, inspiring multiple works of art across Europe for centuries) actually took place, though one of the possibilities lies at Pergusa Lake, located in the Sicilian island of present-day Italy. That is where this story is retold, in the remnants of Magna Graecia. Generating an insurmountable fault in the lake's ground, Hades drove his golden chariot to the surface and took Persephone by the wrist and waist, immediately submerging toward Tartarus, domain of the dead, leaving the landscape behind them intact, as if nothing had happened. Demeter took it to her hands to find her daughter, searching for an entire nine days. When the desperate mother became aware of what had happened to Persephone, she demanded Zeus's intervention, who ordered Hades to return the lost divinity to her mother. However, and according to the Fates, those who ingest pomegranate seeds in the Underworld are bound to lay there, one month per seed. Thus began the four seasons, granted Fall and Winter were the time when Persephone

had to join Hades against her will, but only in the very beginning. What happens next is the rebirth of truth.

### **Demeter and Persephone-**

Tamara Agha-Jaffar

2002-09-12 The classical Greek myth of Demeter and her daughter Persephone as told in Homer's Hymn to Demeter has been used most often to explain the cycle of the seasons. However, a closer examination will reveal insights on living and dying, loss and reconciliation, and suffering and healing. This work demonstrates the continued importance and relevance of the myth of Demeter and Persephone to today's society. The first three chapters provide a summary of the Homeric story and examine the myth from the perspectives of the mother and daughter. The following chapters discuss the symbolism of critical objects, the role of female mentoring, the role of Hades and the meaning of the underworld, the subject of rape, and the masculinist perspective presented by Zeus and Helios, and derive lessons useful for

healing and knowledge. The Hymn to Demeter as translated by Helene Foley is included as an appendix in order to provide a basis for the discussion in the text. Notes and a bibliography also follow the text.

### **New England Local Color Literature-**

Josephine Donovan 1998-09-01 A critical study of 19th century women writers of New England, (orig. pub. 1983) evaluates the originality of the group that included Harriet Beecher Stowe, Annie Fields, Rose Terry Cooke, Elizabeth Stuart Phelps, Sarah Orner Jewett, Mary E. Wilkes [Freeman].

### **Legacy-** 1996

**Lurking Feminism-**Jenni Dyman 1996 "Lurking Feminism" explores Edith Wharton's legacy as a writer of supernatural fiction through her subversive use of the ghost story to express feminist concerns. Her stories protest the domination of patriarchal structures and

language. Moreover, they probe the complexities facing both men and women in defining gender roles and experiencing sexuality, in overcoming power struggles in relationships, and in resolving internal conflicts between debilitating, but often safe, attitudes and behaviors, and the desire for growth.

**Classical and Modern Literature-** 1994

**The Ellen Glasgow Newsletter-** 1998

**Southern Humanities Review-** 2004

**The Mississippi Quarterly-** 1990

**Research Guide to Biography and Criticism-** 1992 Vols. I-II: 325 British, American and Canadian poets and novelists from Beowulf to the present.--Vol. III: 139 world dramatists from the

Greeks to the present.--Vol. IV: 1990 Update.--Vols. V-VI: 127 Contemporary writers.

**Experimental Lives-**Mary Loeffelholz 1992

**American Studies-** 1992

**Research Guide to Biography and Criticism-** Walton Beacham 1990 Vols. I-II: 325 British, American and Canadian poets and novelists from Beowulf to the present.--Vol. III: 139 world dramatists from the Greeks to the present.--Vol. IV: 1990 Update.--Vols. V-VI: 127 Contemporary writers.

**Mississippi Quarterly-** 1990

**Journal of the short story in English-** 1995

**Midamerica-** 1991

**One Hundred Years of American Women Writing,**

**1848-1948**-Jane Missner Barstow 1997 This collection of American women's writing is based on two premises: that what is considered American literature has changed, and that American women played major roles in the growing fields of book and periodical publication by the mid-19th century. It covers 66 writers, all of whom were born or raised in the US, and who wrote primarily in English. Most are middle-class and white, although there are a few writers of color. All writers were well known in their time, published book-length works between 1848 and 1948, and were born between 1805 and 1905. Appendixes include listings of selected women writers by birth date and ethnicity. Annotation copyrighted by Book News, Inc., Portland, OR

**Critiquing the Dream**-Janet M. LaBrie 1992

**Review**- 2001

**Edith Wharton's Letters**

**from the Underworld**- Candace Waid 1991 Provides examinations and interpretations of several works by Wharton, and concentrates on the theme of women as artist

**Feminist Periodicals**- 1990

**Masterplots II.: A-Col**-Frank Northen Magill 1995 Contains 536 essays that examine the most important books of fiction and nonfiction authored by women.

**Critical Essays on Mary Wilkins Freeman**-Shirley Marchalonis 1991 In the first collection of essays ever published on this neglected New England writer (1852-1930) of novels, short stories, and poetry, five original critical essays examine a wide range of texts in a variety of ways. Reprinted articles and reviews by William Dean Howells, F.O. Matthiessen and others represent reactions of Freeman's contemporaries; the book also features

criticism by Freeman of her own work. Annotation copyrighted by Book News, Inc., Portland, OR

## **Western American Literature- 1990**

**Edith Wharton**-Barbara A. White 1991 Edith Wharton, one of America's foremost women of letters, chronicled the glittering world of New York society in the early twentieth century. Her stories, collected in such volumes as *The Greater Inclination* (1899), *The Descent of Man and Other Stories* (1904), and *Tales of Men and Ghosts* (1910), scrutinize the moral decay beneath the glamorous facade of wealth and good manners. Although Wharton's sensibilities are closely aligned with Victorian literary tastes, she anticipated the spirit of the 1920s in her use of fallible narrators. Her writing set the stage for the coming generation of modernist writers. Barbara A. White examines Wharton's short fiction from a

contemporary feminist perspective, arguing that her work can best be understood in terms of her biography. Suggesting that Wharton was probably the victim of incest, White demonstrates how this terrible experience deeply affected her life and art. White also analyzes Wharton's criticism of social convention, particularly her treatment of the institution of marriage. Closing with selections from Wharton's own writings and from other prominent critics, this provocative study illuminates the psychological complexity and astute social observation inherent in Wharton's work. *Edith Wharton: A Study of the Short Fiction* is certain to be a seminal work in Wharton studies.

**Writing the Woman Artist**-Suzanne Whitmore Jones 1991 *Writing the Woman Artist* is a collection of essays that explore the ways women writers portray women painters, sculptors, writers, and performers.

## **Demeter and Persephone,**

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**the Seasons of Time**-I. M. Richardson 1983 Hades, the god of the dead, falls in love with Persephone, the maiden of spring, and steals her from her mother Demeter to be his bride and queen of the underworld.

**The Norton Anthology of Literature by Women: Early twentieth-century through contemporary**-Sandra M. Gilbert 2007 Long the standard teaching anthology, the landmark Norton Anthology of Literature by Women has introduced generations of readers to the rich variety of women's writing in English."

**Anxious Power**-Carol J. Singley 1993-07 Delves into the conflicting feelings of anxiety and empowerment that women, historically excluded from masculine discourse, feel when they dare to read and write. These essays draw upon feminist literary theory, narrative theory, and reader-response criticism to address women's ambivalence toward

language--using textual examples from the medieval period to the present. Paper edition (unseen), \$16.95. Annotation copyright by Book News, Inc., Portland, OR

**A Rose, a Ghost, in Edith Wharton**-Thomas Dutoit 2000

**Coming Into the Twentieth Century**-Kathleen D. Hadley 1991

**Literature**-Edgar V. Roberts 1995 Dedicated to the interlocking processes of reading and writing, this book contains carefully chosen literary selections, and each chapter contains detailed information on and sample essays for writing about literature. Features of the fifth edition include strengthened introductions to literary topics and fresh, new selections. The new edition also places greater emphasis on research writing and on critical approaches to literature.

### **Willa Cather and European Cultural Influences**-Helen

May Dennis 1996 This collection of essays investigates Cather's intellectual relation to European culture and how it was reflected in her literary work.

### **Transgressing the Boundaries of Identity**-

Kristina Margaret Brooks 1995

### **Fiction of the Home Place**-

Helen Fiddymment Levy 1992 A picture of the loving maternal community that appears in the works of six notable women writers.

### **Verging on the Abyss**-Mary

E. Papke 1990 While neither Kate Chopin nor Edith Wharton can be called feminist writers, each did produce female moral art, writings that focus relentlessly on the dialectics of social relations and the position of women therein. Mary Papke analyzes their disintegrative visions through

detailed readings of virtually all of their novels and several of their shorter works. Papke begins with a brief examination of the ideology of true womanhood, which, she argues, permeates Chopin's and Wharton's fiction and world views. The remainder of her work offers an ideological reading of their social fiction in which their characters search for states of liminality, where they might achieve, however momentarily, autonomy. The author presents Chopin's and Wharton's female discourse as radical art because it dares to defy that which is both alienating and destructive. -- From product description.

### **The Longman Anthology of Women's Literature**-Mary K.

DeShazer 2001 Offering readers key women's writings from the eighth century to the present, this global and multicultural anthology includes selections written in English by women from Great Britain and the U.S. as well as Australia, Canada, the Caribbean, Croatia, Ghana, India, New Zealand, Nigeria, South Africa. Organized

thematically, the anthology emphasizes five important topics for women writers finding a voice, writing the body, rethinking the maternal, identity and difference, and resistance and transformation. Pivotal works of feminist theory by Woolf, Cixous, Showalter, hooks, Trinh, and others are also included. For those interested in women's literature.

### **Demeter and Persephone-**

Hugh Lupton 2013

Persephone, beautiful young daughter of the harvest goddess Demeter, is kidnapped by Hades, the god of the underworld. Demeter is heartbroken, and even though the crops are dying, she cares for nothing but getting her daughter back.