



Sisters and the English Household

Domesticity and Women's Autonomy in Nineteenth-Century English Literature

By Anne D. Wallace

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A literary critical discussion of sibling relations in nineteenth-century England.

'The Sister in the House' revalues unmarried adult sisters in nineteenth-century English literature as positive figures of legal and economic autonomy representing productive labour in the domestic space. As a crucial site of contested values, the adult unmarried sister carries the discursive weight of sustained public debates about ideals of domesticity in nineteenth-century England.

Readership

The primary audience is scholars, graduate students and advanced undergraduates specializing in British nineteenth-century literature, history and culture, and those in literary studies generally. A secondary audience would be scholars in all disciplines with interests in history or sociology of the family, gender studies, and material and legal histories. Possibly some appeal for general readers with interests in these areas.

Contents

Acknowledgements; Introduction; 1. Alternative Domesticities: Revaluing the Sibling in the House; 2. 'Out into the Orchard': The Departure of the Sibling in the House; 3. The Problem of the Sister in the House; 4. George Eliot's Natural History of the English Family; Notes; Works Cited.

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Anne D. Wallace is professor of English at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, USA. Author of 'Walking, Literature, and English Culture' (1993), Wallace has also published articles on John Clare, Charlotte Smith, Dorothy and William Wordsworth, and Elizabeth Barrett Browning.

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