

A Virgin Woman Of Literature

A Virgin Woman of Literature: Exploring Representations and Interpretations

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Abstract: This article explores the multifaceted representation of "a virgin woman of literature," examining how this archetype has been constructed and deconstructed across literary history. We will delve into various methodologies for analyzing the figure of the virgin woman, considering the socio-cultural context, the author's intent, and the reader's interpretation. The article will analyze the complexities of virginity as a symbol, examining its association with purity, innocence, power, and oppression.

1. The Evolving Archetype of "A Virgin Woman of Literature"

The concept of "a virgin woman of literature" is not monolithic. Its representation has significantly evolved throughout literary history, reflecting the changing socio-cultural attitudes towards female sexuality and purity. In medieval literature, the virgin often symbolized religious devotion and spiritual purity, exemplified by figures like the Virgin Mary. Shakespearean works present a more nuanced portrayal, with virgin characters exhibiting both innocence and agency, while simultaneously being vulnerable to exploitation.

The Victorian era saw a heightened emphasis on female chastity as a marker of moral virtue. "A virgin woman of literature" in this context often served as a moral compass, contrasting with the perceived dangers of female sexuality. However, even within this conservative framework, subversive voices emerged, questioning the restrictive societal expectations imposed upon women.

Modernist and postmodernist literature challenges the very notion of "a virgin woman of literature"

as a fixed archetype. Authors deconstruct the idealized image of purity, exposing the complexities of female sexuality and the limitations of societal constructs. The virgin may be portrayed as a victim, a rebel, or a complex individual who resists easy categorization.

2. Methodologies for Analyzing "A Virgin Woman of Literature"

Analyzing the representation of "a virgin woman of literature" requires a multi-faceted approach. Several methodologies prove valuable:

Feminist Literary Criticism: This approach examines how gender dynamics shape the portrayal of female characters. It analyzes the power imbalances inherent in the representation of virginity, questioning whether the virgin is presented as empowered or oppressed. Analyzing the language used to describe the virgin, the narrative voice, and the overall thematic concerns reveals much about the author's and the text's stance on female sexuality.

Historical Contextualization: Understanding the socio-cultural context in which a text was written is crucial. The meaning and significance of "a virgin woman of literature" will vary depending on the prevailing social norms and beliefs surrounding female sexuality and marriage during the period. For example, analyzing a Victorian novel requires an understanding of the era's emphasis on female purity and the consequences of sexual transgression.

Psychoanalytic Criticism: This approach examines the unconscious motivations and desires underlying the representation of "a virgin woman of literature." It may explore the character's psychological development, her relationship with her parents, and the symbolic meanings associated with virginity in the context of the individual psyche.

Postcolonial Criticism: When analyzing works from colonized societies, this lens reveals how the concept of "a virgin woman of literature" can be interwoven with colonial power structures and the subjugation of indigenous cultures. The virgin may represent a romanticized image of the "untamed" or "pure" native woman, reflecting colonial ideologies.

3. "A Virgin Woman of Literature": Symbol and Subversion

The image of "a virgin woman of literature" frequently operates as a potent symbol. It can represent:

Purity and Innocence: This is a traditional and often idealized portrayal, associated with religious connotations and a lack of sexual experience.

Power and Agency: In some texts, the virgin's virginity is a source of power, granting her a unique position within the narrative. Her refusal of sexual advances can be a form of resistance against patriarchal control.

Oppression and Constraint: Conversely, the virgin's status can represent societal constraints imposed upon women. Her virginity may be seen as a burden, limiting her autonomy and restricting

her choices.

Social Control: The emphasis on virginity often serves as a mechanism of social control, policing women's bodies and behaviors.

The subversive potential of "a virgin woman of literature" lies in the capacity to challenge these symbolic associations. Many authors use the archetype to explore the complexities of female identity, subverting traditional expectations and exposing the hypocrisy embedded within societal norms.

4. Case Studies: Diverse Representations of Virginity

Analyzing specific literary works offers concrete examples of the varied ways "a virgin woman of literature" is portrayed. For instance, comparing the virginal heroines in Jane Austen's novels with those in Charlotte Brontë's reveals differing attitudes towards female agency and societal expectations. Similarly, comparing the depiction of virginity in a classic Greek tragedy to a contemporary feminist novel highlights the significant shifts in understanding and representation across historical periods.

5. Conclusion

The figure of "a virgin woman of literature" is a rich and complex subject of study. By employing diverse critical methodologies and acknowledging the evolving socio-cultural context, we gain a deeper understanding of how this archetype has been shaped and reshaped across literary history. The exploration of virginity in literature is not merely about analyzing a biological state; it is about unpacking the social, political, and psychological meanings imbued in this concept, particularly as it pertains to women's lives and experiences. The continuing evolution of its portrayal reflects the ongoing discourse surrounding female sexuality, agency, and the power dynamics within society.

FAQs

1. What is the difference between a "virgin" and an "innocent" character in literature? While often used interchangeably, "innocent" can encompass naiveté and lack of worldly experience beyond sexual purity, while "virgin" focuses specifically on the absence of sexual intercourse.
2. Are all representations of virgin women in literature negative? No, some portrayals celebrate virginity as a source of strength and agency, highlighting the power of self-determination.
3. How does the portrayal of virginity change across different cultures? The significance and symbolism of virginity vary significantly across different cultures, reflecting diverse social norms

and values.

4. How does religion influence the portrayal of virgin women in literature? Religious beliefs often associate virginity with purity, holiness, and spiritual devotion, influencing the character's portrayal and significance.
5. How can we analyze the portrayal of virginity in contemporary literature? Contemporary portrayals often challenge traditional notions of virginity, exploring diverse sexual experiences and identities. Postmodern approaches deconstruct the very concept of virginity.
6. What role does the author's own beliefs play in their portrayal of a virgin woman? An author's personal beliefs and experiences undoubtedly influence how they present the concept of virginity.
7. How does the reader's perspective shape their interpretation of a virgin woman? The reader's own background, beliefs, and experiences profoundly affect how they perceive and interpret the character.
8. Can a virgin woman in literature be a strong and independent character? Absolutely. Virginity doesn't preclude strength, independence, or agency.
9. What are some common themes associated with the portrayal of virginity in literature? Common themes include societal expectations, power dynamics, female agency, sexual repression, and the exploration of identity.

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a virgin woman of literature: Virgin Whore Emma Maggie Solberg, 2018-12-15 In *Virgin Whore*, Emma Maggie Solberg uncovers a surprisingly prevalent theme in late English medieval literature and culture: the celebration of the Virgin Mary's sexuality. Although history is narrated as a progressive loss of innocence, the Madonna has grown purer with each passing century. Looking to a period before the idea of her purity and virginity had ossified, Solberg uncovers depictions and interpretations of Mary, discernible in jokes and insults, icons and rituals, prayers and revelations, allegories and typologies—and in late medieval vernacular biblical drama. More unmistakable than any cultural artifact from late medieval England, these biblical plays do not exclusively interpret Mary and her virginity as fragile. In a collection of plays known as the N-Town manuscript, Mary is represented not only as virgin and mother but as virgin and promiscuous adulteress, dallying with the Trinity, the archangel Gabriel, and mortals in kaleidoscopic erotic combinations. Mary's virginity signifies invulnerability rather than fragility, redemption rather than renunciation, and merciful license rather than ascetic discipline. Taking the ancient slander that Mary conceived Jesus in sin as cause for joyful laughter, the N-Town plays make a virtue of those accusations: through bawdy yet divine comedy, she redeems and exalts the crime. By revealing the presence of this promiscuous Virgin in early English drama and late medieval literature and culture—in dirty jokes told by Boccaccio and Chaucer, Malory's Arthurian romances, and the double entendres of the allegorical *Mystic Hunt of the Unicorn*—Solberg provides a new understanding of Marian traditions.

a virgin woman of literature: Virgin Radhika Sanghani, 2014-09-01 I don't need the perfect guy. I don't need candlelight or roses. Honestly, I don't even need a real bed... Ellie Kolstakis is a twenty-one-year-old virgin. She's not religious. She's not waiting for marriage. She's not even holding on for The One. Ellie's just unlucky. But with her final year of university coming to an end, she's determined to shed her V-plates, once and for all. And she's ready to try anything - from submitting to her domineering Greek mother's matchmaking skills to embracing the world of nether-waxing trends (no-one wants a 'Hitler') and even YouTube tutorials on how to give a 'blow gift' (it should never be a job). After all, what has she got to lose? Well, besides the obvious.

a virgin woman of literature: Woman As Hero In Old English Literature Jane Chance, 2005-06-16 The first comprehensive study of heroic women figures in Anglo-Saxon literature

investigates English secular and religious prose and poetry from the seventh to the eleventh centuries. Given the paucity of surviving literature from the Anglo-Saxon period, the works which feature major women characters -- often portrayed as heroes -- seem surprisingly numerous. Even more striking is the strength of the female characterizations, given the medieval social ideal of women as peaceful, passive members of society. The task of this study is to examine the existing sources afresh, asking new questions about the depictions of women in the literature of the period. Particular attention is focused on the failed, possibly adulterous women of 'The Wife's Lament' and 'Wulf and Eadwacer', the monstrous mother of Grendel in 'Beowulf', and the chaste but heroic figures and saints Judith, Juliana, and Elene. The book relies for its analysis on recent and standard texts in Anglo-Saxon studies and literature, as well as a thorough grounding in Latin and vernacular historical documents and Anglo-Saxon writings other than the focal literary texts.

a virgin woman of literature: *The Virgin Suicides* Jeffrey Eugenides, 2013-04-15 Adapted into a critically acclaimed film by Sofia Coppola and starring Kirsten Dunst, this is the story of the five Lisbon sisters - beautiful, eccentric, and obsessively watched by the entire neighbourhood.

a virgin woman of literature: *The Son & His Hope* Pepper Winters, 2019-02-12 A Sweeping Standalone from New York Times Bestseller Pepper Winters. "Things you should know about me from the very beginning: I was born to true love, witnessed the destruction it causes, and vowed never to let such agony happen to me. I am not a story-teller like my father. I am not a writer like my mother. I am just a son—their son. I am happy being alone. And that is all I ever want to be." JACOB The day he was born, Jacob learned his hardest and longest lesson. It wasn't a lesson a boy should learn so young, but from his earliest memories he knew where happiness lives, so does tragedy. Where love exists, so does heartbreak. And where hope resides, so does sorrow. That lesson carved him from the kid to the teen to the man. And nothing and no one could change his mind. HOPE I first met him when he was fourteen at a movie premiere of all places. A movie based on his parent's life. He was stoic, strong, suspicious, and secretive. I was only ten, but I felt something for him. A strange kind of heartbreak that made me want to hug and heal him. I was the daughter of the actor hired to play his father. We shared similarities. I recognised parts of him because they were parts of me. But no matter how many times we met. No matter how many times I tried. He stayed true to his vow to never fall. 5 Stars The Son & His Hope will ruin you in the best possible way. -- The Romance Rebels 5 Stars You need to experience this amazing, powerful, once in a lifetime series. --Heather, Goodreads 5 Stars Epically beautiful and unforgettable. This story is beyond anything you'll ever read. --Melissa, Goodreads

a virgin woman of literature: *Signs of Virginit* Micha'el Rosenberg, 2018 Signs of Virginit examines virginity testing in Judaism and early Christianity, and the relationship of these tests to male sexual violence. Rosenberg points to two authors--Augustine of Hippo and the rabbinic collective that produced the Babylonian Talmud--who construct alternative models that, if taken seriously, would utterly reverse cultural ideals of masculinity, encouraging men to be gentle, rather than brutal, in their sexual behavior.

a virgin woman of literature: *The Soul as Virgin Wife* Amy Hollywood, 2000-12-05 The Soul as Virgin Wife presents the first book-length study to give a detailed account of the theological and mystical teachings written by women themselves, especially by those known as beguines, which have been especially neglected. Hollywood explicates the difference between the erotic and imagistic mysticism, arguing that Mechthild, Porete, and Eckhart challenge the sexual ideologies prevalent in their culture and claim a union without distinction between the soul and the divine. The beguines' emphasis in the later Middle Ages on spiritual poverty has long been recognized as an important influence on subsequent German and Flemish mystical writers, in particular the great German Dominican preacher and apophatic theologian Meister Eckhart. In *The Soul as Virgin Wife*, Amy Hollywood presents the first book-length study to give a detailed textual account of these debts. Through an analysis of Magdeburg's *The Flowing Light of the Godhead*, Marguerite Porete's *Mirror of Simple Souls*, and the Latin commentaries and vernacular sermons of Eckhart, Hollywood uncovers the intricate web of influence and divergence between the beguinal spiritualities and

Eckhart.

a virgin woman of literature: Elizabeth's Women Tracy Borman, 2010 Elizabeth I was born into a world of women. As a child, she was served by a predominantly female household of servants and governesses, with occasional visits from her mother, Anne Bolyen, and the wives who later took her place. As Queen, Elizabeth was cons

a virgin woman of literature: Adult Virgins Anonymous Amber Crewe, 2020-08-06 'A GORGEOUS FEEL-GOOD READ' - SUN 'THIS UPLIFTING BOOK IS WHAT WE COULD ALL DO WITH IN OUR LIVES RIGHT NOW' - HEAT 'UPLIFTING' - SUNDAY POST 'QUITE POSSIBLY BOTH THE BEST BOOK I HAVE EVER READ, AND THE BOOK OF 2021. ALREADY.' - BOOKSTAGRAMMER @lost_in_her_bookland

Are you still a virgin? Want to talk about it in a safe space? Meetings every other Tuesday. You're not alone. Kate Mundy's life is not going to plan. Nearing thirty, she's been made redundant from her job, her oldest friends have quietly left her behind, and she can barely admit her biggest secret: she's never even been on a date, let alone taken her underwear off with a member of the opposite sex. Freddie Weir has spent most of his twenties struggling severe OCD and anxiety, and now his only social interactions consist of comic book signings and fending off intrusive questions from his weird flatmate Damien. There's no way Freddie could ever ask a girl out and now he's wondering if this is the way it might be forever. When Freddie and Kate meet at a self-help group for adult virgins, they think they might just be able to help each other out so they can both get on with finding their real romantic destinies. But might these two have more in common than just their lack of experience?

Readers LOVE Adult Virgins Anonymous! Adult Virgins Anonymous is a fun, easy and light modern romance. - 5* Left me with such a positive feeling! - 5* I could not put the book down. It was warm, loving and straight to the point. Definitely a pick me up when you are feeling quite blue or needing to move on from a book hangover. - 5* Light-hearted, great read to lose yourself in. - 5* Every once in a while, a novel comes along that speaks to your soul. Adult Virgins Anonymous was that novel for me. - 5* Such a wonderful read. It's awkward. It's cute. It's so very relatable. I loved what it had to say about friendship and finding the right friends that suit you. - 5* Overall I highly enjoyed this thoughtful book that explores experiences not represented in contemporary fiction. This is a cute romance book for readers looking for something fresh and original. - 5* A cute and lovely book, that deserves a place on my for-a-rainy-day shelf. - 5*

a virgin woman of literature: Saints' Lives and Women's Literary Culture C. 1150-1300 Jocelyn Wogan-Browne, 2001 Writing by and for women in the twelfth and thirteenth century in England is less well known than that of the later medieval period of Julian of Norwich and Margery Kempe. This is the first book-length exploration of a rich literary culture embracing several vernaculars as well as Latin. It focuses particularly on women's uses and adaptations of the powerful ideal of virgin sanctity. Saints' lives were used by lay and religious women in a range of ways, whether as exemplary of vocational biography, as historiography, as texts in the politics of court and convent, or as vernacular theology. As a sampling of this earlier literary culture, saints' lives suggest that there is a wealth of texts and manuscripts which need further study before we can map the literary and linguistic history of women in medieval England.

a virgin woman of literature: Women, Literature, Criticism Harry Raphael Garvin, 1978 The essays in this book range from historical to biographical, archetypal and formalist, often in combination. All the essays, however, take a new look at the question of women and literature, with an awareness of working in an atmosphere of change.

a virgin woman of literature: Alone of All Her Sex Marina Warner, 2000 Marina Warner begins with the gospels, noting the slight allusions to Mary, and the curious confusions between the two women of that name. She points out the falsities, fables and manifest fabrications that have shaped mariolatry. This intriguing and intelligent book is an attempt to explain the origins, growth, appeal and persistence of the Virgin's cult. The narrative is a rich, allusive tapestry set in a framework of theological commentary. -New Society

a virgin woman of literature: *The Wise Virgins* Leonard Woolf, 2003 *The Wise Virgins* (1913) is a semi-autobiographical novel about a dilemma: whether Harry, the hero, should go into the family business and marry the suitable but dull girl next door or move in artistic circles and marry one of the entrancing 'Lawrence' girls. For, as Lyndall Gordon writes in her *Persephone* Preface: 'It is a truth widely acknowledged that Camilla Lawrence is a portrait of the author's wife - Virginia Woolf.' This is one reason why the novel is so intriguing. But it is also a Forsterian social comedy, funny, perceptive, highly intelligent, full of clever dialogue and at times bitterly satirical; while the dramatic and emotional denouement still retains a great deal of its power to shock. It was on his honeymoon in 1912 that Leonard Woolf began writing his second (and final) novel. He was 31, newly returned from seven years as a colonial administrator, and asking himself much the same questions as his hero. Helen Dunmore wrote in *The Sunday Times*: 'It's a passionate, cuttily truthful story of a love affair between two people struggling against the prejudices of their time and place. Woolf's writing is almost unbearably honest.'

a virgin woman of literature: *Headscarves and Hymens* Mona Eltahawy, 2015-04-21 'Shocking, heartfelt and well-researched' *New Statesman* 'A ground-shaping book that defines the edge of so many vital contemporary debates. Hers is a voice simultaneously behind and beyond the veil' *Colum McCann* 'A fascinating, can't-look-away, whistle-stop tour of the Middle East' *Daily Telegraph* 'Brave and impassioned . . . A shocking book, and one that will make anyone who has seen veiling as a cultural issue think very hard about what is really going on' *Mail on Sunday* *Headscarves and Hymens* explodes the myth that we should stand back and watch while women are disempowered and abused in the name of religion. In this laceratingly honest account, Eltahawy takes aim both at attitudes in the Middle East and at the western liberals who mistake misogyny for cultural difference. Her argument is clear: unless political revolution in the Arab world is accompanied by social and sexual revolution, no progress will be made. *Headscarves and Hymens* is the book the world has been crying out for: a powerful, fearless account of what it really means to be a woman in the Muslim world. 'A fascinating, can't-look-away, whistle-stop tour of the Middle East' *Daily Telegraph* 'Brave and impassioned . . . A shocking book, and one that will make anyone who has seen veiling as a cultural issue think very hard about what is really going on' *Mail on Sunday*

a virgin woman of literature: *The Virgin Blue* Tracy Chevalier, 2002 The compelling story of two women, born centuries apart, and the ancestral legacy that binds them.

a virgin woman of literature: *The Problem of Woman in Late-medieval Hispanic Literature* Robert Archer, 2005 This book argues that the problem of gender identity is vital to the large corpus of medieval Hispanic texts that discuss the nature of women. What is a woman? This book questions the persistent assumption that the large corpus of medieval Hispanic texts that discuss the nature of women can be defined in terms of the clichéd discourses of misogyny and defence of women, arguing instead that the problem of gender identity is vital to them all. The texts, some well-known, others which have received scant critical attention, are each discussed in their specific contexts and in relation to the ostensible reasons for their composition, such as a political, literary, religious, or didactic 'agenda'. They are also related to the literary traditions in which they are written [misogynistic denunciation, satire, humour, defence, narrative debate, among others], and the particular theoretical problems arising from them are discussed. But it is also argued that the full meaning of the texts lies at the less immediately accessible level at which they address this very problem of definition, one which arises directly from the self-perpetuating contradictions of authoritative wisdom on the nature of women. ROBERT ARCHER holds the Cervantes Chair of Spanish, King's College London.

a virgin woman of literature: *Medieval Virginites* Ruth Evans, Sarah Salih, Anke Bernau, 2003-01-01 The variety of subjects and disciplines represented here testify both to the elusiveness of virginity and to its lasting appeal and importance. *Medieval Virginites* shows how virginity's inherent ambiguity highlights the problems, contradictions and discontinuities lurking within medieval ideologies.

a virgin woman of literature: *Virgin Earth* Philippa Gregory, 2006-04-05 A colonist in

Virginia falls for a Powhatan girl, and is drawn by their respect for nature.

a virgin woman of literature: *The Single Dad's Virgin Wife* Susan Crosby, 2008-10-01
Businessman Noah Falcon was gorgeous. This fact had not escaped Tricia McBride, even though she was busy caring for his four children. In fact, since she started working for him, the attraction between them sizzled like water hitting hot oil. Yet though she was living steps from his bedroom, relations between Noah and Tricia had to stay strictly business. He was her boss, after all. Plus, in three months, she was moving to another city. So what if her feelings for the sexy single dad—and her attraction to him—grew stronger every day? She was leaving. But four adorable, scheming children had other plans....

a virgin woman of literature: War Virgin Laura Westley, 2016-08-31 ON MARCH 21, 2003, Army Lieutenant and West Point graduate Laura Westley invaded liberated Iraq (the Army prohibited using the word invasion) with the full intention of keeping her virginity securely intact. For twenty-four years, she had obeyed the strict teachings of evangelical Christianity and kept her legs closed, vowing to preserve her purity for her future husband. Being at war, however, made her realize that adhering to strict religious principles perhaps wasn't worth it, not when bombs, RPGs and gunfire constantly threaten to cut your life short. WAR VIRGIN is a coming-of-age memoir that chronicles Laura's journey through repression, temptation, and ultimately, liberation. This war story describes a woman's battle to discover, protect and own her unique identity. No veteran or West Point graduate has ever offered such a candid, irreverent look at the comically naughty, sexually charged underbelly of the military.

a virgin woman of literature: Versions of Virginity in Late Medieval England Sarah Salih, 2001 Medieval virginity theory explored through study of martyrs, nuns and Margery Kempe. This study looks at the question of what it meant to be a virgin in the Middle Ages, and the forms which female virginity took. It begins with the assumptions that there is more to virginity than sexual inexperience, and that virginity may be considered as a gendered identity, a role which is performed rather than biologically determined. The author explores versions of virginity as they appear in medieval saints' lives, in the institutional chastity of nuns, and as shown in the book of Margery Kempe, showing how it can be active, contested, vulnerable but also recoverable. SARAH SALIH teaches in the Department of English at King's College London.

a virgin woman of literature: The Sworn Virgin Kristopher Dukes, 2017-08-08 Dukes's gripping historical novel tells the tale of a desperate Albanian woman who will do whatever it takes to keep her independence and seize control of her future...even if it means swearing to remain a virgin for her entire life. When eighteen-year-old Eleanora's father is shot dead on the cobblestone streets of 1910 Albania, Eleanora must abandon her dream of studying art in Italy as she struggles to survive in a remote mountain village with her stepmother Meria. Nearing starvation, Meria secretly sells Eleanora into marriage with the cruel heir of a powerful clan. Intent on keeping her freedom, Eleanora takes an oath to remain a virgin for the rest of her life—a tradition that gives her the right to live as a man: she is now head of her household and can work for a living as well as carry a gun. Eleanora can also participate in the vengeful blood feuds that consume the mountain tribes, but she may not be killed—unless she forsakes her vow, which she has no intention of ever doing. But when an injured stranger stumbles into her life, Eleanora nurses him back to health, saving his life—yet risking her own as she falls in love with him... “It's hard to believe that the culture Dukes describes was ever real, but the amount of research she put into this book definitely shines through. The story remains fascinating throughout; readers will definitely find it difficult to put this novel down.”—San Francisco Book Review

a virgin woman of literature: Finding a Voice Amrit Wilson, 2018-10 First published in 1978, and winning the Martin Luther King Memorial Prize for that year, Finding a Voice established a new discourse on South Asian women's lives and struggles in Britain. This new edition includes a preface by Meena Kandasamy, some historic photographs, and a remarkable new chapter by young South Asian women.

a virgin woman of literature: Voyage in the Dark Jean Rhys, 2020 Prescient and technically

astounding. --Geoff Dyer, GQ

a virgin woman of literature: Virginité in Young Adult Literature after Twilight Christine Seifert, 2015-01-27 Around 2005 something surprising happened in young adult literature: YA books became obsessed with presenting characters who wanted to have sex but couldn't—at least not without losing something vital to their identity. Since the publication of *Twilight*, the YA market has been flooded with books that feature naive virgins finding true love. While some YA novels do present nuanced depictions of sex and of healthy sexual relationships, the fiction most popular with young adult readers presents adolescent girls as virginal sex objects waiting to be fulfilled by their love interests. In *Virginité in Young Adult Literature after Twilight*, Christine Seifert looks at an alarming trend in YA novels. Labeling this phenomenon “abstinence porn,” Seifert argues that these novels that fetishize virginité are harmful to readers. Like pornography, such works reduce female characters to objects whose sexual acts are the sole expression of their identities. Chapters in this book examine paranormal, dystopian, and contemporary romance, paying particular attention to recurring virginité themes or tropes. The book also provides an antidote by showing how some sex-positive teen novels provide more empowering messages to readers. Organized by genre, the books were selected for this study based on their popularity with teens. Exploring how messages about virginité are sustained and repeated from text to text, this book also calls out key reader reactions to demonstrate how they are responding to these messages. Featuring a list of discussion questions, *Virginité in Young Adult Literature after Twilight* will be a valuable resource for teachers, librarians, parents, and mature young adult readers.

a virgin woman of literature: *A Rogue of One's Own* Evie Dunmore, 2020-09-01 'Evie Dunmore has done it again! A must-read for historical romance lovers' Chanel Cleeton 'Dunmore creates pure magic with this charming, romantic novel' Jennifer Probst A lady must have money and an army of her own if she is to win a revolution - but first, she must pit her wits against the wiles of an irresistible rogue bent on wrecking her plans . . . and her heart. Lady Lucie and her band of Oxford suffragists are finally prepared for a coup against Parliament. But who could have predicted that the one person standing between her and success is her old nemesis and London's undisputed lord of sin, Lord Ballentine? Or that he would be willing to hand over the reins for an outrageous price - a night in her bed. Lucie tempts Tristan like no other woman, burning him up with her fierceness and determination every time they clash. But as their battle of wills and words fans the flames of long-smouldering devotion, the silver-tongued seducer runs the risk of becoming caught in his own snare. As Lucie tries to outmanoeuvre Tristan in the boardroom and the bedchamber, she soon discovers there's truth in what the poets say: all is fair in love and war . . . Why readers love Evie Dunmore . . . 'Evie Dunmore is a phenomenon!' Anna Campbell 'Swoonworthy romance' Eva Leigh 'Dazzles and reminds us all why we fell in love with historical romance' Julia London 'Simply superb! Evie Dunmore will wow you' Gaalen Foley 'Evie Dunmore is a marvellous, fresh new voice in romance who is sure to go far' Anna Campbell 'A swoonworthy romance fuelled by electric chemistry' Chanel Cleeton

a virgin woman of literature: *Enlightened Virginité in Eighteenth-Century Literature* C. Harol, 2006-09-02 *Enlightened Virginité in Eighteenth-Century Literature* analyzes the history of the English virgin at the height of her celebrity. In so doing, it presents new arguments about the early English novel and its relationship to science, religion, and feminist theory.

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a virgin woman of literature: *Never Have I Ever* Katie Heaney, 2014-01-14 A hilarious, quirky, and unflinchingly honest memoir about one young woman's life-long (and totally unsuccessful) search for love. I've been single for my entire life. Not one boyfriend. Not one short-term dating situation. Not one person with whom I regularly hung out and kissed on the face. So begins Katie Heaney's memoir of her years spent looking for love, but never quite finding it. By age 25, equipped with a college degree, a load of friends, and a happy family life, she still has never had a boyfriend...and she's barely even been on a second date. Throughout this laugh-out-loud funny book, you will meet Katie's loyal group of girlfriends, including flirtatious and outgoing Rylee, the wild child to Katie's shrinking violet, as well as a whole roster of Katie's ill-fated crushes. And you will get to know Katie herself -- a smart, modern heroine relaying truths about everything from the subtleties of a Facebook message exchange to the fact that Everybody who works in a coffee shop is at least a little bit hot. Funny, relatable, and inspiring, this is a memoir for anyone who has ever struggled to find love, but has also had a lot of fun in the process.

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