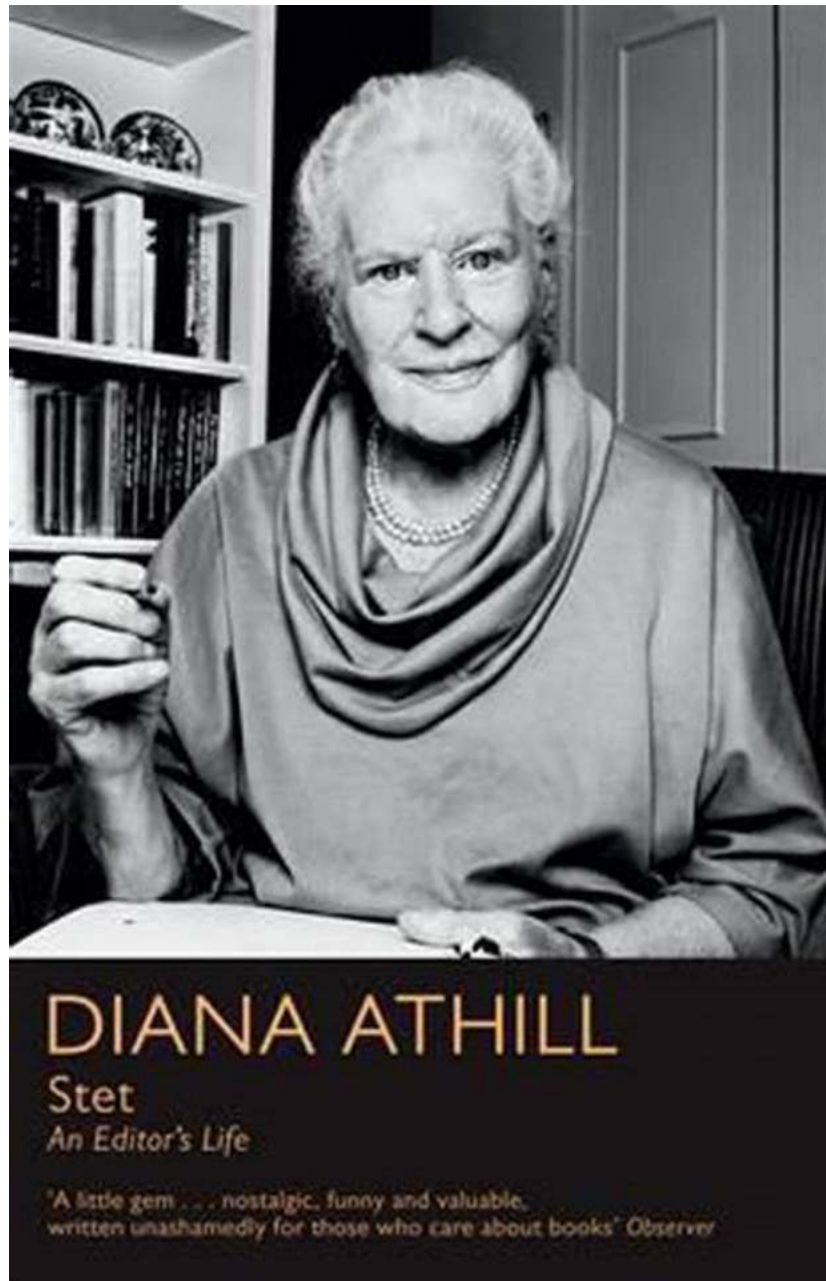


The Extraordinary Life of Diana Athill: A Fascinating Journey as an Editor



The literary world owes a great deal of gratitude to Diana Athill, who spent a significant part of her life working as an editor, nurturing talent, and shaping literary masterpieces. Her remarkable journey, spanning over a century, is a

testament to her immense dedication, passion, and intuitive understanding of the written word.

Early Life and Passion for Literature

Born on December 21, 1917, in London, Diana Athill developed a deep love for literature from an early age. She was voracious reader, immersing herself in the works of the greatest writers of her time. This passion led her to pursue a career in publishing, where she would leave an indelible mark.



Stet: An Editor's Life by Diana Athill (Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4.4 out of 5

Language	: English
File size	: 553 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 260 pages
Lending	: Enabled



Editorial Career: A Remarkable Legacy

Athill began her editorial career in 1948, joining the prestigious publishing house André Deutsch Ltd. She quickly established herself as an astute and skilled editor, renowned for her ability to identify promising manuscripts and help authors shape their work to perfection.

Throughout her career, Athill worked with legendary writers such as Jean Rhys, Philip Roth, and V.S. Naipaul, among others. She played a crucial role in refining and polishing their manuscripts, enabling these influential authors to achieve their

full potential. Her keen eye for detail, coupled with her insightful feedback, earned her the utmost respect in the literary community.



Notable Contributions and Literary Achievements

Athill's editorial prowess contributed significantly to the success of several acclaimed novels. One of her most notable achievements was the editing of Jean Rhys' "Wide Sargasso Sea," a prequel to "Jane Eyre." Her input and collaboration

with Rhys elevated the manuscript to a literary masterpiece that has since garnered worldwide recognition and acclaim.

Athill herself played a significant role in the literary world as an author. Her memoir, "Stet: An Editor's Life," stands as a testament to her experiences, wisdom, and love for the written word. In this remarkable piece of literature, she shares invaluable insights into the publishing industry, offering aspiring writers a glimpse into the complexities and joys of the editorial process.

Legacy and Inspirational Influence

As an editor, Athill left an indelible mark on the literary world. Her meticulous approach to editing, unwavering commitment to quality, and ability to nurture talent have become a source of inspiration for current and aspiring editors alike.

Athill's impact extended beyond her professional contributions. Her resilience, strength, and unwavering passion for the written word serve as an inspiration to women around the world. She defied societal expectations by pursuing a successful career in a male-dominated industry and continued to thrive well into her later years.

Even in her 90s and after retiring from her editorial work, Athill remained active and engaged, captivating audiences with her insights and delightful anecdotes. She continued to inspire a new generation of writers and editors, reminding them of the power of storytelling and the importance of nurturing literary talent.

The extraordinary life of Diana Athill stands as a shining example of dedication, passion, and unwavering love for literature. Her contributions as an editor and author continue to shape the literary landscape, leaving an indelible mark on countless readers and writers.

Athill's journey serves as a reminder that the pursuit of one's passion, despite challenges and societal expectations, can lead to a fulfilling and remarkable life. Her legacy will forever inspire future generations to embrace their individuality, follow their dreams, and make their mark on the world through literature.



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A New York Times Notable Book: This memoir of a career in book publishing “should please anyone who cares about twentieth-century literature” (The Washington Post Book World).

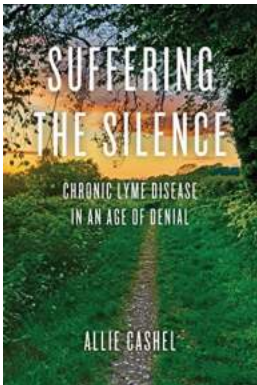
For nearly five decades, Diana Athill edited (nursed, coerced, coaxed) some of the most celebrated writers in the English language, among them V. S. Naipaul, Philip Roth, John Updike, Jean Rhys, Mordecai Richler, Molly Keane, and Norman Mailer. A founding editor of the prestigious publishing house André Deutsch Ltd., Athill takes us on a guided tour through the corridors of literary London, offering a keenly observed, devilishly funny, and always compassionate insider’s portrait of the glories and pitfalls of making books—spiced with candid insights about the type of people who make brilliant writers and ingenious publishers, and the idiosyncrasies of both. It is both “wryly humorous” (The New

York Times Book Review) and “full of history, wisdom, and dirt” (The Boston Globe).

“This is not literary life as we know it today—huge advances, showbiz and vast conglomerates—but the world of small literary houses . . . An enveloping blast of nostalgia: read and marvel at what we (all of us) are missing.” —Marie Claire

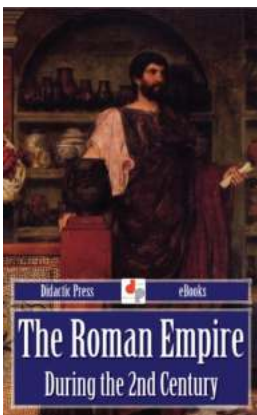
“A beautifully written, hard-headed, and generally insightful look back at the heyday of post-war London publishing by a woman who was at its center for nearly half a century.” —The Washington Times

“Witty and astute . . . The literarily curious will find [her] portraits of leading contemporary authors irresistible.” —Publishers Weekly



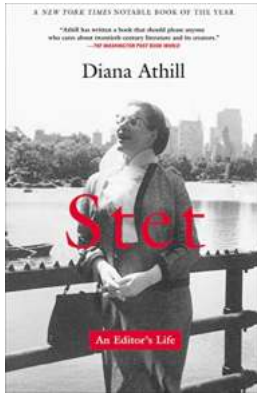
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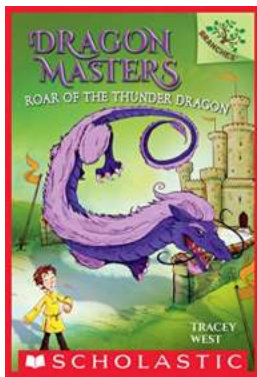
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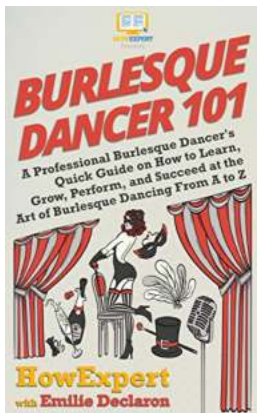
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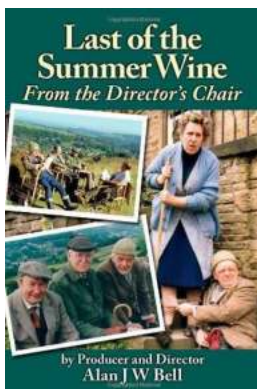
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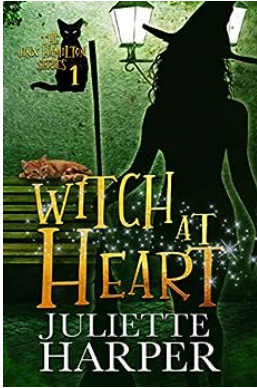
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