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# The Life and Death of Mary Wollstonecraft

*By Claire Tomalin*



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## The Life and Death of Mary Wollstonecraft By Claire Tomalin

Witty, courageous and unconventional, Mary Wollstonecraft was one of the most controversial figures of her day. She published "A Vindication of the Rights of Woman", travelled to revolutionary France and lived through the Terror and the destruction of the incipient French feminist movement; produced an illegitimate daughter; and married William Godwin before dying in childbed at the age of thirty-eight. Often embattled and bitterly disappointed, she never gave up her radical ideas or her belief that courage and honesty would triumph over convention.

Winner of the Whitbread First Book Prize in 1974, this haunting biography achieved wide critical acclaim. Writing in the New Statesman, J H Plumb called it, "Wide, penetrating, sympathetic. There is no better book on Mary Wollstonecraft, nor is there likely to be"



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## **Editorial Review**

### **About the Author**

Claire Tomalin was literary editor of the New Statesman then the Sunday Times before leaving to become a full-time writer. Her first book, *The Life and Death of Mary Wollstonecraft*, won the Whitbread First Book Award, and she has since written a number of highly acclaimed and bestselling biographies. They include *Jane Austen: A Life*, *The Invisible Woman*, a definitive account of Dickens' relationship with the actress Ellen Ternan, which won three major literary awards, and *Samuel Pepys: The Unequalled Self* was Whitbread Book of the Year in 2002. In the highly acclaimed *Charles Dickens: A Life*, she presents a full-scale biography of our greatest novelist. She is married to the writer Michael Frayn.

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