

Virginia Woolf (1882-1941) is now recognised as a major twentieth-century writer, a great novelist and essayist and a key figure in literary history as a feminist and modernist who was critical of received forms and opinions. Julia Briggs describes Woolf's 'brilliant and experimental novels' as setting out to 'rewrite the great tradition of fiction so as to set nearer its centre women's experience and their ways of relating to one another and to the wider world'. These fourteen introductions, specially commissioned for Penguin's reissue of her major works and gathered together here in one volume, are by distinguished feminist critics and Woolf scholars from both sides of the Atlantic. Written from a range of critical and feminist stances, each contribution traces the history and background of a particular text, setting it in the context of Woolf's development as a writer, and often challenging more conventional readings.