

William and Dorothy Wordsworth: All in Each Other

William and Dorothy Wordsworth, the beloved brother and sister duo, shared an extraordinary life of poetry, nature, and mutual support. Their bond was the inspiration behind some of the most famous poems in English literature.



William and Dorothy Wordsworth: 'All in each other'

by Lucy Newlyn

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

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Early Life

William Wordsworth was born in Cockermouth, Cumberland, England, on April 7, 1770. Dorothy Wordsworth was born in Penrith, Cumberland, England, on December 25, 1771. They were the children of John Wordsworth, an attorney, and Ann Cookson Wordsworth.

The Wordsworths were a close-knit family, and William and Dorothy were particularly close. They spent their childhood playing in the Lake District, a beautiful and rugged region of England. The landscape of the Lake District had a profound influence on William's poetry, and Dorothy's journals provide a rich and detailed account of their life there.

Lyrical Ballads

In 1798, William and Dorothy Wordsworth published *Lyrical Ballads*, a collection of poems that revolutionized English poetry. The poems in *Lyrical Ballads* were written in a simple and direct style, and they focused on the lives of ordinary people. This was a radical departure from the traditional style of poetry, which was often highly formal and artificial.

Lyrical Ballads was a critical and commercial success, and it helped to establish William Wordsworth as one of the leading poets of his generation. Dorothy's contributions to *Lyrical Ballads* were significant, and she is credited with inspiring some of the most famous poems in the collection, including "Tintern Abbey" and "The Prelude."

Dove Cottage

In 1799, William and Dorothy Wordsworth moved to Dove Cottage in Grasmere, Cumbria. Dove Cottage is a small and humble house, but it was a place where the Wordsworths found peace and inspiration.

William wrote some of his most famous poems at Dove Cottage, including "I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud" and "Ode: Intimations of Immortality." Dorothy continued to keep a journal, and her entries provide a fascinating glimpse into the Wordsworths' life at Dove Cottage.

Later Years

William and Dorothy Wordsworth continued to live together at Dove Cottage until 1808, when they moved to Rydal Mount, a larger house in Ambleside, Cumbria. They lived at Rydal Mount for the rest of their lives, and they continued to write poetry until the very end.

William Wordsworth died on April 23, 1850, at the age of 80. Dorothy Wordsworth died on January 25, 1855, at the age of 83. They are both buried in the churchyard at Grasmere.

Legacy

William and Dorothy Wordsworth are two of the most important figures in English literature. Their poetry has had a profound influence on generations of readers, and their work continues to be studied and enjoyed today.

The bond between William and Dorothy Wordsworth was a unique and extraordinary one. They were all in each other, and their mutual love and support made them one of the most famous and successful literary partnerships in history.



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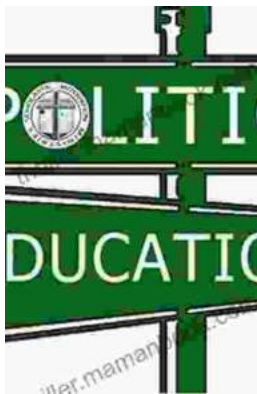
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