

[eBooks] A Rebecca Harding Davis Reader Rebecca Harding Davis

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A Rebecca Harding Davis Reader-Rebecca Harding Davis 1995 In an excellent critical introduction, Jean Pfaelzer integrates cultural, historical, and psychological approaches in penetrating readings of Davis's work. She emphasizes how Davis's fictional embrace of the commonplace was instrumental in the demise of American romanticism and in eroding the repressive cultural expectations for women. Despite the need to support her husband, an impoverished young lawyer, and despite editorial pressures to exclude "unfeminine" social realities from her work, Rebecca Harding Davis refused to be silent about, as she put it, the "signification [of the] voices of the world." In the stories and essays included in this anthology, Davis gave voice to working women, slaves, freedmen, fishermen, prostitutes, wives seeking divorce, celibate utopians, and female authors. These tales entail powerful confrontations with domesticity as an ideology and sentimentality as a literary mode. As typified in her most famous story, "Life in the Iron-Mills," Davis drew creatively on a variety of literary tropes from the domestic novel, travel literature, gothic tales, and regionalism in emotional calls for reform. In both fiction and nonfiction, Davis attacked contemporary questions such as slavery, prostitution, divorce, the Spanish-American War, the colonization of Africa, the plight of the rural South, northern racism, environmental pollution, and degraded work conditions generated by the rise of heavy industry. Written from the standpoint of a critical observer in the midst of things, Davis's work vividly recreates the social and ideological ferment of post-Civil War United States.

Rebecca Harding Davis-Jane Atteridge Rose 1993 Rebecca Harding Davis was at once emblematic of and ahead of her time. As a devoted wife and mother of three for whom home and family were central, she embodied an ideal of nineteenth-century middle-American womanhood. As a writer, she broke with the tradition of sentimental fiction expected from women writers of her day to pioneer the development of realism. "Life in the Iron-Mills," which appeared in the Atlantic Monthly in 1861 as Davis's first published work, predated Emile Zola's entry into realistic fiction by six years. It is perhaps the first American story to treat the industrial workplace, ghettoized poverty, and an immigrant subculture as the matter of America. In a career that spanned 50 years in which she wrote short fiction, serialized novels, essays, and children's stories, Davis exposed racism, political corruption, and the subjugation of women and led the way in developing psychologically complex female characters. Despite this legacy, most scholars who have studied Davis's works in depth concur that she did not fulfill the promise shown in "Life in the Iron-Mills." To earn more money for her family, Davis eventually decided to favor quantity over quality. On the advice of her publisher she lightened her dark view of the human condition, and on the advice of her husband, a crusading journalist, she sometime advocated social causes in her fiction and was then criticized for being didactic. While she never abandoned her quest to write serious, honest fiction, her commitment was likely compromised under these influences. Rather than lamenting these choices, in Rebecca Harding Davis Jane Atteridge Rose uses them to demonstrate the tenuous position of the woman writing in the nineteenth century. That Davis was able to make a respectable name for herself in her chosen profession at a time when rigorous intellectual pursuits were discouraged among women is remarkable. Rose's study is the first to weave into its analysis of Davis's work a sustained and detailed discussion of the author's life. "The most distinctive feature of Rebecca Harding Davis's writing," Rose argues, "is its juxtaposition of antithetical values: vocation and family, egoism and self-denial, faith and cynicism, the material and the spiritual." While Davis's creative mediation of these opposing forces was conscious, there is also in her work evidence of an unconscious effort to reconcile the contradictions between the conventional choices she embraced in her personal life and the free-minded values she explored in her fiction. This effort may intrude on Davis's resolution of her works, Rose writes, but it also provokes fruitful analysis. Rebecca Harding Davis is an effort to reclaim a place in America s social history and its literary canon for a writer whose life and work are instructive to both. Davis's writing, Rose concludes, "stands as an artifact of a pioneer critical realist who was also a typical nineteenth-century American woman.

Life in the Iron Mills-Rebecca Harding Davis 2015-09-04 Life in the Iron Hell “In the neighboring furnace-buildings lay great heaps of the refuse from the ore after the pig-metal is run. Korl we call it here: a light, porous substance, of a delicate, waxen, flesh-colored tinge. Out of the blocks of this korl, Wolfe, in his off-hours from the furnace, had a habit of chipping and moulding figures,—hideous, fantastic enough, but sometimes strangely beautiful: even the mill-men saw that, while they jeered at him. It was a curious fancy in the man, almost a passion.” - Rebecca Harding Davis, Life in the Iron Mills Life in the Iron Mills is one of the first American novels that depicts the precarious state of the impoverished working class. ‘Molly Wolfe’ is a member of this class working 12 hours a day, six days a week to earn a living. Because of his condition, he cannot develop his innate artistic talent. His cousin, Deborah tries to help him but the consequences are devastating. Xist Publishing is a digital-first publisher. Xist Publishing creates books for the touchscreen generation and is dedicated to helping everyone develop a lifetime love of reading, no matter what form it takes

Life in the Iron-Mills-Rebecca Harding Davis 2020-12-02 Life in the Iron Mills begins with an omniscient narrator who looks out a window and sees smog and iron workers. The gender of the narrator is never known, but it is evident that the narrator is a middle class observer. As the narrator looks out the windowpane, an old story comes to mind; a story of the house that the narrator is living in. The narrator cautions the reader to have an objective mind, and to not be quick to judge the character in the story he/she is about to tell the reader. The narrator begins to introduce Deborah, Wolfe's cousin. She is described as a meek woman who works hard, and has a hump in her back. Deborah finds out from Janey, that Hugh did not take lunch to work, and she decides to walk many miles in the rain to take a lunch for Wolfe.

Rebecca Harding Davis-Rebecca Harding Davis 2001 This is the annotated edition of novelist/journalist Rebecca Harding Davisís 1904 autobiography, Bits of Gossip, and a previously unpublished family history written for her children. The memoirs are not traditional autobiography; rather, they are Davis's perspective on the extraordinary cultural changes that occurred during her lifetime and of the remarkable--and sometimes scandalous--people who shaped the events. She provides intimate portraits of the famous people she knew, including Emerson, Hawthorne, Louisa May Alcott, Ann Stephens, Oliver Wendell Holmes, and Horace Greeley. Equally important are Davis's commentaries on the political activists of the Civil War era, from Abraham Lincoln to Booker T. Washington, from the "daughters of the Southland" to Lucretia Mott, from Henry Ward Beecher to William Still.

Rebecca Harding Davis-Sharon M. Harris 2018 Rebecca Harding Davis is best known for her gritty short story "Life in the Iron-Mills," set in her native Wheeling, West Virginia. Far less is known of her later career among elite social circles in Philadelphia, New York, and Europe, or her relationships with American presidents and leading international figures in the worlds of literature and the stage. In the first book-length biography of Davis, Sharon M. Harris traces the extraordinary life of this pioneering realist and recovers her status as one of America's notable women journalists. Harris also examines Rebecca's role as the leading member of the Davis family, a unique and nationally recognized family of writers that shaped the changing culture of later nineteenth-century literature and journalism. This accessible treatment of Davis's life, based on deep research in archival sources, provides new perspective on topics ranging from sectional tensions in the border South to the gendered world of nineteenth-century publishing. It promises to be the authoritative treatment of an important figure in the literary history of West Virginia and the wider world.

Rebecca Harding Davis's Stories of the Civil War Era-Rebecca Harding Davis 2010 The ten stories gathered here show Rebecca Harding Davis to be an acute observer of the conflicts and ambiguities of a divided nation and position her as a major transitional writer between romanticism and realism. Instead of focusing on major Civil War conflicts and leaders, she takes readers into the intimate battles fought on family farms and backwoods roads.

Rebecca Harding Davis and American Realism-Sharon M. Harris 1991-06 From the late 1860s until her death in 1910, Rebecca Harding Davis was one of the best-known writers in America. She broke into print as a young woman in the 1860s with "Life in the Iron Mills," which established her as one of the pioneers of American realism. She developed a literary theory of the "commonplace" nearly two decades before William Dean Howels shaped his own version of the concept. Yet, in spite of her importance to the literary and popular culture of her time, she has been, for the most part, ignored by scholars. Rebecca Harding Davis and American Realism helps to change that.

Margret Howth-Rebecca Harding Davis 1990 A milestone of American letters, David's first novel, Margret Howth (1862) anticipates by more than three decades the novels of naturalism and realism and introduced the working class heroine and the burgeoning industrial revolution into US fiction. Margaret, who is abandoned by her lover and works in the mills to support her parents, is kin to the passionate heroines of the Brontes, George Eliot, and Kate Chopin.

Waiting for the Verdict-Rebecca Harding Davis 1868

Four Stories by American Women-Cynthia Griffin Wolff 1990 LITERATURE-CLASSICS & CONTEMPORARY

Bits of Gossip-Rebecca Harding Davis 1904

Margret Howth-Rebecca Harding Davis 1862 One of the earliest American writers of realistic fiction, Davis wrote about poor and working class women, factory life and social oppression, with the hope of affecting social change.

Rebecca Harding Davis-Rebecca Harding Davis 2001 This is the annotated edition of novelist/journalist Rebecca Harding Davisís 1904 autobiography, Bits of Gossip, and a previously unpublished family history written for her children. The memoirs are not traditional autobiography; rather, they are Davis's perspective on the extraordinary cultural changes that occurred during her lifetime and of the remarkable--and sometimes scandalous--people who shaped the events. She provides intimate portraits of the famous people she knew, including Emerson, Hawthorne, Louisa May Alcott, Ann Stephens, Oliver Wendell Holmes, and Horace Greeley. Equally important are Davis's commentaries on the political activists of the Civil War era, from Abraham Lincoln to Booker T. Washington, from the "daughters of the Southland" to Lucretia Mott, from Henry Ward Beecher to William Still.

A Law Unto Herself-Rebecca Harding Davis 1877

Life in the Iron Mills, and Other Stories-Rebecca Harding Davis 1985 You must read this book and let your heart be broken-New York Times Book Review "One of the earliest recognitions in American literature of the existence of the very poor."-Michele Murray, National Observer Suggested for course use in: 19th-century U.S.

literature Working-class studies Rebecca Harding Davis (1831-1910) published 12 books and many serialized novels, stories, and essays.

Margaret Howth-Rebecca Harding Davis 1970

Reading for Realism-Associate Professor of English Nancy Glazener 1997 Reading for Realism presents a new approach to U.S. literary history that is based on the analysis of dominant reading practices rather than on the production of texts. Nancy Glazener's focus is the realist novel, the most influential literary form of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries--a form she contends was only made possible by changes in the expectations of readers about pleasure and literary value. By tracing readers' collaboration in the production of literary forms, Reading for Realism turns nineteenth-century controversies about the realist, romance, and sentimental novels into episodes in the history of readership. It also shows how works of fiction by Rebecca Harding Davis, Henry James, Nathaniel Hawthorne, and others participated in the debates about literary classification and reading that, in turn, created and shaped their audiences. Combining reception theory with a materialist analysis of the social formations in which realist reading practices circulated, Glazener's study reveals the elitist underpinnings of literary realism. At the book's center is the Atlantic group of magazines, whose influence was part of the cultural machinery of the Northeastern urban bourgeoisie and crucial to the development of literary realism in America. Glazener shows how the promotion of realism by this group of publications also meant a consolidation of privilege--primarily in terms of class, gender, race, and region--for the audience it served. Thus American realism, so often portrayed as a quintessentially populist form, actually served to enforce existing structures of class and power.

Southern Women Novelists and the Civil War-Sharon Talley 2014-04-09 During and after the Civil War, southern women played a critical role in shaping the South's evolving collective memory by penning journals and diaries, historical accounts, memoirs, and literary interpretations of the war. While a few of these writings—most notably Mary Chesnut’s diaries and Margaret Mitchell’s novel, Gone with the Wind—have been studied in depth by numerous scholars, until now there has been no comprehensive examination of Civil War novels by southern women. In this welcome study, Sharon Talley explores works by fifteen such writers, illuminating the role that southern women played in fashioning cultural identity in the region. Beginning with Augusta Jane Evans’s Macaria and Sallie Rochester Ford’s Raids and Romance of Morgan and His Men, which were published as the war still raged, Talley offers a chronological consideration of the novels with informative introductions for each time period. She examines Reconstruction works by Marion Harland, Mary Ann Cruse, and Rebecca Harding Davis, novels of the “Redemed” South and the turn of the century by Mary Noailles Murfree, Ellen Glasgow, and Mary Johnston, and narratives by Evelyn Scott, Margaret Mitchell, and Caroline Gordon from the Modern period that spanned the two World Wars. Analysis of Margaret Walker’s Jubilee (1966), the first critically acclaimed Civil War novel by an African American woman of the South, as well as other post-World War II works by Kaye Gibbons, Josephine Humphreys, and Alice Randall, offers a fitting conclusion to Talley’s study by addressing the inaccuracies in the romantic myth of the Old South that Gone with the Wind most famously engraved on the nation’s consciousness. Informed by feminist, poststructural, and cultural studies theory, Talley’s close readings of these various novels ultimately refute the notion of a monolithic interpretation of the Civil War, presenting instead unique and diverse approaches to balancing “fact” and “fiction” in the long period of artistic production concerning this singular traumatic event in American history. Sharon Talley, professor of English at Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi, is the author of Ambrose Bierce and the Dance of Death and Student Companion to Herman Melville. Her articles have appeared in American Imago, Journal of Men’s Studies, and Nineteenth-Century Prose.

Silhouettes of American Life-Rebecca Harding Davis 1892

Coming to Grips with Huckleberry Finn-Tom Quirk 1993 In Coming to Grips with HUCKLEBERRY FINN, Tom Quirk traces the history of The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn from its inception in 1876 to its problematic presence in today's American culture. By approaching Twain's novel from several quite different perspectives, Quirk reveals how the author's imagination worked and why this novel has affected so many people for so long and in so many curious ways.

A Story of To-Day-Rebecca Harding Davis 2009-01 This is a pre-1923 historical reproduction that was curated for quality. Quality assurance was conducted on each of these books in an attempt to remove books with imperfections introduced by the digitization process. Though we have made best efforts - the books may have occasional errors that do not impede the reading experience. We believe this work is culturally important and have elected to bring the book back into print as part of our continuing commitment to the preservation of printed works worldwide.

Frances Waldeaux (Webster's French Thesaurus Edition)-Rebecca Harding Davis 2008-09-18 Websters paperbacks take advantage of the fact that classics are frequently assigned readings in English courses. By using a running English-to-French thesaurus at the bottom of each page, this edition of Frances Waldeaux by Rebecca Harding Davis was edited for three audiences. The first includes French-speaking students enrolled in an English Language Program (ELP), an English as a Foreign Language (EFL) program, an English as a Second Language Program (ESL), or in a TOEFL or TOEIC preparation program. The second audience includes English-speaking students enrolled in bilingual education programs or French speakers enrolled in English-speaking schools. The third audience consists of students who are actively building their vocabularies in French in order to take foreign service, translation certification, Advanced Placement (AP) or similar examinations. By using the Webster's French Thesaurus Edition when assigned for an English course, the reader can enrich their vocabulary in anticipation of an examination in French or English.TOEFL, TOEIC, AP and Advanced Placement are trademarks of the Educational Testing Service which has neither reviewed nor endorsed this book. All rights reserved.Websters edition of this classic is organized to expose the reader to a maximum number of difficult and potentially ambiguous English words. Rare or idiosyncratic words and expressions are given lower priority compared to difficult, yet commonly used words. Rather than supply a single translation, many words are translated for a variety of meanings in French, allowing readers to better grasp the ambiguity of English, and avoid them using the notes as a pure translation crutch. Having the reader deciphera words meaning within context serves to improve vocabulary retention and understanding. Each page covers words not already highlighted on previous pages. If a difficult

Provisions-Judith Fetterley 1985 This collection is unique. Judith Fetterley has recovered for us the work of sixteen women who wrote during the years when America writers were developing their distinctive styles and voices. In re-viewing the literature of 19th century America, she fives us the whole picture, setting the literary and historical contexts and allowing us to see the development of prose content and form from 1830 to 1865.

Ecosublime-Lee Rozelle 2006-02-12 Probes the metaphor of environmental catastrophe in American literature of the last 150 years. Lee Rozelle examines the natural environment's place in American literature and culture through the lens of what he calls the "ecosublime," an aesthetic moment that in its awe and terror provokes a cognitive and spiritual re-conception of place. Focusing on a variety of literary works and cultural artifacts, Ecosublime explores 19th-century, modern, postmodern, and millennial texts as they portray the changing ecological face of America. In the 19th century, Rozelle argues, Isabella Bird and Edgar Allan Poe represent the western wilderness as culturally constructed and idealized landscapes--gardens, forests, and frontiers--conceptual frameworks that either misrepresent or uphold

ecological space. Modernists like Nathanael West and William Carlos Williams, on the other hand, portray urban space as either wastelands or mythical urban gardens. A chapter on Charles W. Chesnutt and Rebecca Harding Davis analyzes a new breed of literary eco-advocate, educating and shocking mainstream readers through depictions of ecological disaster. A later chapter probes the writings of Edward Abbey and the Unabomber Manifesto to delve into the sublime dimensions of environmental activism, monkey-wrenching, and eco-terrorism. In each instance, Rozelle finds evidence that the ecosublime--nature experienced as an instance of wonder and fear--profoundly reflects spiritual and political responses to the natural world, America's increasingly anti-ecological trajectory, and the ascendance of a post-natural landscape.

Frances Waldeaux (Webster's Korean Thesaurus Edition)-Rebecca Harding Davis 2008-10-06 Websters paperbacks take advantage of the fact that classics are frequently assigned readings in English courses. By using a running English-to-Korean thesaurus at the bottom of each page, this edition of Frances Waldeaux by Rebecca Harding Davis was edited for three audiences. The first includes Korean-speaking students enrolled in an English Language Program (ELP), an English as a Foreign Language (EFL) program, an English as a Second Language Program (ESL), or in a TOEFL or TOEIC preparation program. The second audience includes English-speaking students enrolled in bilingual education programs or Korean speakers enrolled in English-speaking schools. The third audience consists of students who are actively building their vocabularies in Korean in order to take foreign service, translation certification, Advanced Placement (AP) or similar examinations. By using the Webster's Korean Thesaurus Edition when assigned for an English course, the reader can enrich their vocabulary in anticipation of an examination in Korean or English. TOEFL, TOEIC, AP and Advanced Placement are trademarks of the Educational Testing Service which has neither reviewed nor endorsed this book. All rights reserved. Websters edition of this classic is organized to expose the reader to a maximum number of difficult and potentially ambiguous English words. Rare or idiosyncratic words and expressions are given lower priority compared to difficult, yet commonly used words. Rather than supply a single translation, many words are translated for a variety of meanings in Korean, allowing readers to better grasp the ambiguity of English, and avoid them using the notes as a pure translation crutch. Having the reader decipher a words meaning within context serves to improve vocabulary retention and understanding. Each page covers words not already highlighted on previous pages. If a difficult

Gale Researcher Guide for: Rebecca Harding Davis's Social Realism-Robin L. Cadwallader Gale Researcher Guide for: Rebecca Harding Davis's Social Realism is selected from Gale's academic platform Gale Researcher. These study guides provide peer-reviewed articles that allow students early success in finding scholarly materials and to gain the confidence and vocabulary needed to pursue deeper research.

Great Short Stories by Great American Writers-Thomas Fasano 2011 Featuring 30 of the greatest short stories from the most distinguished writers in the American short-story tradition, this new anthology begins with Washington Irving's tale "Rip Van Winkle" and ranges across more than one hundred years of storytelling, concluding with F. Scott Fitzgerald's classic, "Winter Dreams." Other selections include Poe's "The Fall of the House of Usher," Melville's "Bartleby, The Scrivener," Harte's "The Luck of Roaring Camp," "To Build a Fire," by Jack London, "The Middle Years" by Henry James, plus stories by Mark Twain, Sarah Orne Jewett, Charles Chesnutt, Kate Chopin, Stephen Crane, Willa Cather, Ambrose Bierce, Theodore Dreiser, and others. Perfect for classroom use, this outstanding collection of short stories will also prove popular with fiction readers everywhere.

Shadows on My Heart-Lucy Rebecca Buck 2012-02-01 When the Civil War began in 1861, Lucy Rebecca Buck was the eighteen-year-old daughter of a prosperous planter living on her family's plantation in Virginia's Shenandoah Valley. On Christmas Day of that year Buck began the diary that she would keep for the duration of the war, during which time troops were quartered in her home and battles were literally waged in her front yard. The extraordinary chronicle mirrors the experience of many women torn between loyalty to the Confederate cause and dissatisfaction with the unrealistic ideology of white southern womanhood. In the environment of war, these women could not feign weakness, could not shrink from public gaze, and could not assume the presence of protection that was supposedly their right. This radical disjuncture, coming as it did during a period of extreme deprivation and loss, caused Buck and other so-called southern belles to question the very ideology with which they had been raised, often between the pages of private diaries. In powerful, unsentimental language, Buck's diary reveals her anger and ambivalence about the challenges thrust upon her after upheaval of her self, her family, and the world as she knew it. This document provides an extraordinary glimpse into the "shadows on the heart" of both Lucy Buck and the American South.

Literary Women, Private Person- 2004

Vanishing Moments-Eric Schocket 2006-12-22 Publisher description

Soldiers of Fortune-Richard Harding Davis 1907

Life In The Iron Mills-Rebecca Harding Davis 2004 Wolfe, while Deborah watched him as a spaniel its master, bent over the furnace with his iron pole, unconscious of her scrutiny, only stopping to receive orders. Physically, Nature had promised the man but little. He had already lost the strength and instinct vigor of a man, his muscles were thin, his nerves weak, his face (a meek, woman's face) haggard, yellow with consumption.

Seekers of Scenery-Kevin E. O'Donnell 2004 "Eighteen articles, culled from this body of literature - including work by Rebecca Harding Davis, W.E.B. DuBois, Charles Dudley Warner, and Constance Fenimore Woolson - make up this volume. Some passages now read as environmental elegy: descriptions of old-growth forests long since cut, waterfalls now dammed, vistas now hidden behind pollution on high ridges.

Great Short Stories by American Women-Candace Ward 2005 Contains thirteen short stories by American women writing in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

Parlor Radical-Jean Pfaelzer 1996-10-15 Rebecca Harding Davis was a prominent author of radical social fiction during the latter half of the nineteenth century. In stories that combine realism with sentimentalism, Davis confronted a wide range of contemporary American issues, giving voice to working women, prostitutes, wives seeking divorce, celibate utopians, and female authors. Davis broke down distinctions between the private and the public worlds, distinctions that trapped women in the ideology of domesticity. By engaging current strategies in literary hermeneutics with a strong sense of historical radicalism in the Gilded Age, Jean Pfaelzer reads Davis through the public issues that she forcefully inscribed in her fiction. In this study, Davis's realistic narratives actively construct a coherent social work, not in a fictional vacuum but in direct engagement with the explosive movements of social change from the Civil War through the turn of the century.

The Hermaphrodite-Julia Ward Howe 2004-12-01 Written in the 1840s and published here for the first time, Julia Ward Howe's novel about a hermaphrodite is unlike anything of its time--or, in truth, of our own. Narrated by Laurence, who is raised and lives as a man, is loved by men and women alike, and can respond to neither, this unconventional story explores the understanding "that fervent hearts must borrow the disguise of art, if they would win the right to express, in any outward form, the internal fire that consumes them." Laurence describes his repudiation by his family, his involvement with an attractive widow, his subsequent wanderings and eventual attachment to a sixteen-year-old boy, his own tutelage by a Roman nobleman and his sisters, and his ultimate reunion with his early love. His is a story unique in nineteenth-century American letters, at once a remarkable reflection of a largely hidden inner life and a richly imagined tale of coming of age at odds with one's culture. Howe wrote "The Hermaphrodite" when her own marriage was challenged by her husband's affection for another man--and when prevailing notions regarding a woman's appropriate role in patriarchal structures threatened Howe's intellectual and emotional survival. The novel allowed Howe, and will now allow her readers, to occupy a speculative realm otherwise inaccessible in her historical moment.

Soldiers of Fortune-Richard Harding Davis 2008-09-24 Books for All Kinds of Readers. ReadHowYouWant offers the widest selection of on-demand, accessible format editions on the market today. Each edition has been optimized for maximum readability, using our patent-pending conversion technology. We are partnering with leading publishers around the globe to create accessible editions of their titles. Our goal is to have accessible editions simultaneously released with publishers new books so that all readers can have access to the books they want to read - today.

Waiting for the Verdict (1867) Rebecca Harding Davis (Classics)-Rebecca Harding Davis 2016-04-22 Rebecca Blaine Harding Davis (June 24, 1831 - September 29, 1910; born Rebecca Blaine Harding) was an American author and journalist. She is deemed a pioneer of literary realism in American literature. She graduated valedictorian from Washington Female Seminary in Pennsylvania. Her most important literary work is the novella Life in the Iron Mills, published in the April 1861 edition of the Atlantic Monthly which quickly made her an established female writer. Throughout her lifetime, Davis sought to effect social change for blacks, women, Native Americans, immigrants, and the working class, by intentionally writing about the plight of these marginalized groups in the 19th century.

Southern Local Color-Barbara C. Ewell 2002 Conflict, exoticism, sensuality, eccentricity, and the sheer differences of the American South pervade this anthology, which focuses on the 19th century tradition of "southern local color". It contains 31 stories, spanning the 1870s through the early 1900s.

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