



# **Wildly Romantic: The English Romantic Poets: The Mad, the Bad, and the Dangerous**

*Catherine M. Andronik*

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**Meet the rebellious young poets who brought about a literary revolution**

Rock stars may think they invented sex, drugs, and rock and roll, but the Romantic poets truly created the mold.

In the early 1800s, poetry could land a person in jail. Those who tried to change the world through their poems risked notoriety--or courted it. Among the most subversive were a group of young writers known as the Romantics: Lord Byron, Percy Bysshe Shelley, Samuel Taylor Coleridge, William Wordsworth, and John Keats. These rebels believed poetry should express strong feelings in ordinary language, and their words changed literature forever.

*Wildly Romantic* is a smart, sexy, and fascinating look at these original bad boys--and girls.

## **Wildly Romantic: The English Romantic Poets: The Mad, the Bad, and the Dangerous Details**

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## **From Reader Review Wildly Romantic: The English Romantic Poets: The Mad, the Bad, and the Dangerous for online ebook**

### **Amy says**

"The Mad, the Bad, and the Dangerous" Romantic poets (minus Keats from that description- what I know of him, which is little) is an appropriate description with the sex, drugs, and delusions revealed about some of history's greatest poets. It saddens me that men so gifted died so young and spent a lot of time tortured by addictions it seems. Some parents may not want their teens reading this due to the incest, drugs, etc... However, I think this book is more apt to keep some teens reading than other non-fiction due to the inclusion of focusing on the darker side of these poets' lives.

Some poems are included at the end of each chapter. The book reads more like a story than a book of factual information. I kept wanting to turn the pages.

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### **Doug says**

The Romantic Poets... This is the most emotionally charged book I have read recently. Catherine M. Andronik brings the romantic poets (Wordsworth, Coleridge, Byron, Shelly, Keats) alive. Andronik brings all of the passion, and pathos alive. This book spotlights the tragedies of their lives makes them real.

I am glad I have not read any other biographies of the Romantic Poets, because this is detailed and only 249 pages; thus, making it one of those emotionally charged readings that explodes into your heart, and occupies me fully while I am reading of their lives.

They are fascinating lives. I had sympathy for all of their lives even the weird Byron. I found Wordsworth, and

Keats as normal as Byron and Shelly were extreme.

This was a great book. Were these Poets the rock stars of the late 18th and early 19th century?

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### **Lauren says**

I think this is a very accessible overview of the big names in Romantic poetry. I really enjoyed it. I also loved that she included poems she referenced between the sections. It did a lot to showcase what each poet was like through each section. I even learned a bit I hadn't learned before in my lyricism class, so kudos to her.

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### **Andie Z says**

Reviewed for The In Group

Wildly Romantic is a fascinating look at the lives of the Romantic poets Lord Byron, Percy Bysshe Shelley,

Samuel Taylor Coleridge, William Wordsworth, and John Keats. These young rebels pushed the boundaries of their times, risking everything to express themselves through their poetry. I really enjoyed this book, because I have always loved the Romantic poems and it was wonderful to read about what was going on in the lives of the brilliant people who wrote them. I would recommend this book to anyone, however, not just poetry buffs. It may be classified as a non-fiction book about the Romantic poets, it reads more like a fascinating novel, and with the many poems scattered throughout the book, it is sure to keep anyone's interest.

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### **Katie (Ms. Hammond) Hammond says**

I remember as a college student thinking that nothing was more boring and hard to read than Romantic poetry. I wish I had had this book then! Zowie! These guys lived like today's most degenerate pop stars! They give Slash a run for his money. I picked this up in honor of National Poetry Month, and now I want to pick up some of those old Norton anthologies I have lying around from past English courses. It's a quick read, and you'll definitely learn something new about these dead white guys.

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### **Sesana says**

A deeply absorbing read about a deeply fascinating group of people. Being a relatively short book to cover the lives of so many major poets, there's obviously some picking and choosing of what to cover. Andronik chose to focus on the scandals, which certainly has its place in biography, aside from being interesting. Maybe some deeper analysis of their works would have been welcome, but I didn't come here for literary analysis, and I never expected it. If that's your expectation, you'll be disappointed. But if you just want some incredibly juicy, two-century-old gossip, this is the book for you.

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### **Timothy Newman says**

very readable

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### **karen says**

okay, i have to call WTF maintenant. so, i ordered this for myself, not realizing it was YA. fine - i am not averse to YA. but on the back, bold as balls, this book claims:

*the entanglement between lord byron and lady caroline lamb started out as a mutual flirtation...*

*maybe it was just a rumor, maybe it had a shred of truth, but a story spread that lady caroline was once delivered to lord byron's place on a silver serving tray. beneath the tray's cover, she lay stark naked*

no.

that was never a rumor. she was served up naked in a covered soup tureen, yes, but never to byron; it was as

a birthday present for her husband at some swank banquet.

and maybe this will be addressed in the book, like "haha - i got you - it wasn't byron at all, it was her husband!!!" which, admittedly, is less titillating.

but why use that as your entire back-cover copy when it is incorrect??

CATHERINE M. ANDRONIK, THIS IS ME QUESTIONING YOUR SCHOLARSHIP!!!

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### **Benjamin Ried says**

I loved the Romantic poets, because of "their fascination with genuine emotion, with lyrical use of everyday language, with ordinary people and ordinary situations."

However, this book pulled back the curtain on their scandalous lives and it was appalling. We often lament the moral decline in our current time and nation; however, moral depravity has been a part of human civilization since the fall. The accounts of sexual immorality, homosexuality, drug addiction, idolatry, abuse, etc., etc. served the purpose of reminding me that these men were just men. It also caused me to forget some of the joy and fascination that I experienced when reading their works.

One of my favorite poems of all times, "Ozymandias", will now forever be linked to the biographical information that I read in this book. My admiration that I had for Percy Bysshe Shelley (and to a lesser degree Mary Shelley) has now been turned to contempt.

This book has its place, and I do not believe we should hide the truth about someone's life or character. I would not appreciate a book that made these five men out to be angels. After all the Bible depicts men the way they are, not the way we want them to be. This biographical account is so concerned with the scandal that it unfortunately only paints that side of the poets' lives. I did not appreciate this book making these five men out to be demons (Mad, Bad, and Dangerous).

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### **Felicia says**

As someone who was obsessed with Romantic poetry and Anne of Green Gables as a kid, this was a fantastic overview of the romantic poets we deify now. Basically they were all kind of rock star douchebags, haha.

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### **Ginger Price says**

This was a very accessible introduction to the Romantic poets, and, for the most part, I liked it. However, this text is essentially just a very abridged account of the Romantic poets' lives. The lack of any discussion of their actual work left me wanting more. I also had to chuckle at the introduction which clearly wanted to make the Romantics sound cool and appealing to the YA to whom this book is generally directed; Andronik made 19th century England sound like something out of a telenovela or YA primetime drama. While the great Romantics had turbulent lives, I was a little frustrated to have them reduced only to those scandals. Certainly we shouldn't idolize these men (and women), but neither should an approach to them be so

reductive as to almost completely neglect to discuss why their works were so revolutionary, useful, and important (and that's coming from someone who really can't get behind poetry).

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### **Molly Gaudry says**

Not a bad introductory text to the Romantics for young people. I'd gift it. But then I'd have to explain to a parent the jacket copy, which I'd have to then explain is misleading on so many levels--librarians don't know where to shelve it, adults are disappointed bc this is YA-level history/biography and not the steamy story they were expecting, and, come on, really? Why is Caroline Lamb even anywhere near the back cover?

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### **Alex Jiménez says**

Full of straightforward facts. I appreciated it for that. The writing and organization could've been way better, though. One example: The author repeatedly reminds the reader about the high rate of infant mortality during this time, as if they need to be reminded, and then neglects to touch upon Byron's bisexuality more than three times in throwaway lines. All in all, it was an educational read and good for starters to learn the essentials about the Romantics. 3.5 stars.

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### **Mary Drew says**

This was in the adult non-fiction section of the library but it read as if written for someone in high school. Sure enough, reading the back cover it stated, "Catherine M. Andronik writes non-fiction books for teenagers...." Still, I wanted to read it to learn about the Romantic poets and I did. While not deep or detailed, I got the information without a lot of academic mumbo-jumbo. The age group focus made it a quick read. Since my goal is to get an historic background on poetry and poets, this book fills in some of the background for the other book I'm reading, "Perrine's Sound and Sense An Introduction to Poetry," by Thomas R. Arp.

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### **Meaghan says**

This is the perfect book to get middle- and high-schoolers interested in 18th- and 19th-century poetry. (And let's face it, they're not going to get hooked on it of their own accord.) The scandalous details will reel 'em in and make the poets much more memorable than otherwise.

It's long been my opinion that people, especially students, are better off knowing the follies of the heroes of history (like the fact that Ben Franklin was a raging sex fiend, for example) -- not to demonize the aforementioned heroes or demean their accomplishments, but simply to make them more human.

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