The Muses Of Resistance: Laboring-class Women's Poetry In Britain, 1739-1796

Donna Landry


In this original and challenging study, Donna Landry explores the poetry of laboring-class women in Britain during the late eighteenth century. Her focus is on the voices of women who worked in factories, fields, and domestic service, often in difficult and exploitative conditions. By examining their poetry, Landry reveals a rich and complex network of resistance and expression. Through her work, she challenges traditional narratives of eighteenth-century British literature and offers a new perspective on the role of women in society.

Landry's study is based on a comprehensive examination of surviving poetry by laboring-class women, including case studies of individual poets and an analysis of the broader cultural and social contexts in which they wrote. She demonstrates how these women used their poetry as a means of negotiating their identities, asserting their rights, and challenging the dominant discourses of their time.

The Muses of Resistance is a ground-breaking work that has had a significant impact on the study of women's literature and labor history. It is a must-read for anyone interested in the intersection of gender, class, and resistance in British literature.

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