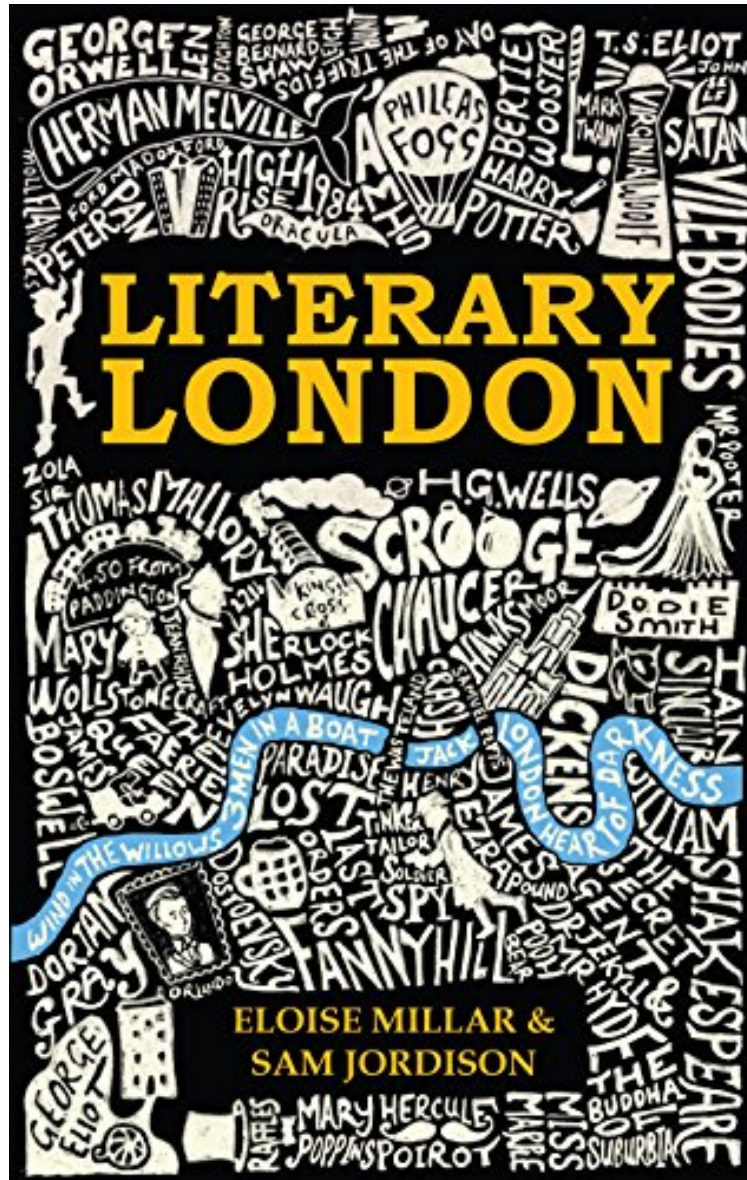


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Eloise Millar, Sam Jordison

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Eloise Millar, Sam Jordison : Literary London before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Literary London:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. This is just the perfect book for any literary lover The chapters start ...By The booktrailWhere do I start? This is just the perfect book for any literary lover The chapters start by telling you about the journey London has gone on from its humble beginnings to the metropolis of today. It was like stepping back in a time machine and finding your way with the authors in turn, the guides of the social, political, cultural and of

course Literary London of its time. Can you tell how much this book fascinated me? Its even got key addresses and further reading lists after each easy to read and descriptive chapters. Such bold titles too *Beginners and Immortals* was the first Chaucer, Shakespeare. so often I think we forget about the faded footsteps of those who have walked centuries before us. Little grey boxes of extra info peppered the journey like those blue literary plaques on the walls. You can literally walk in and out of this book as the mood suits and of course each chapter is a trail in itself and a mountain of knowledge at the same time. The text is fresh and witty and then when I got to chapter four *Mystics and Magicians* like on a wayward Hogwarts broom, I was flung into the London ether graveyards, angels and demons. ghosts. I may not be brave enough to read in the dark but if you do I can only imagine sitting in some of these places when the light starts to fade. Never mind the Jack the Ripper tours this is a whole new London thrill! There's so much to this book that one short review doesn't even get close to the literary love affair I now have with London and this book. *Gossips and Rivals* was another favourite London has nurtured many fond literary friendships it starts describing the way writers huddle in cafes. and where readers go to meet them either for real or via their books. Its not just the literary leanings which are prominent but the landscape and the changes that the city has seen and experienced and even those it has been at the forefront of. A history lesson as well as a literary one but one that reads like a ride on that Hogwarts broom stick when your game of Quidditch is polished and ready, A literary gem. On the Booktrail.com Sam Jordison has a chat and really gets into the London sites. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. *Chronicles of literary LONDON* By TripFiction As author Anthony Trevelyan says of *Literary London: A pungent sense of the capital on every page.* *Literary London* is an incredibly attractive book with a scraper board cover design, engraved with authors and literary highlights of London, all in stunning black and white, and touches of blue for the river, and ochre in the title (and we rather niftily pick up the ochre theme at the British Library in London for our photo!). The research for this book must have been staggering. It charts the early days of literature from Chaucer, through Shakespeare to the modern day, all with a twist of insight, quirkiness and humour. This is quite a seminal book of literary London. It is punctuated with drawings and little maps and at the end of each chapter there are key addresses and recommended reading so you can look up the places and people mentioned, and read the books listed for yourself. The general starting point is Chaucer. The Tabard Inn, which no longer exists on Borough High Street, was the assembly point for his Pilgrims setting out on their adventures. The Tabard was in its day close to the George Inn (now owned by the National Trust) which is highlighted because it is the one remaining galleried structure in London, typical of the 17th century, where one can still get a flavour of the times of Shakespeare, who naturally gets a good mention in the book. The George Inn is still a working pub today, and justifiably it is a great lure for tourists. The narrative smoothly moves forward and it is quite striking how the Great Fire of London on 2nd September 1666 (which has just recently been marked in the capital) caused such devastation, described by various chroniclers of the time, how the terrible fire was very much part of the fabric of literary London of the time. This is followed by chapters full of more great names right up to the modern day. Charming nuggets of the lives of the good and great have been selected throughout to add a real human dimension to what is essentially a chronicle of writers in the city. There is Pepys showering a maid with amorous intent in St Dunstons Church, and culinary ruminations on a kickshaw (a dish so changed by the cookery that it can scarcely be known), JM Barry writing in Bayswater about the Barrys, whose house was actually in Bloomsbury. And so it continues: Raymond Chandler, Joe Orton, Byron, Shelley, Lenin, Agatha Christie, Dorian Grey, the list never really ends. The book is divided into sections, so it's easy to dip in and out and read at leisure, and just soak up a particular period or theme. Whilst in the capital myself I was struck by how many areas were of note and having read this book, it made me look around the city in a slightly new and different way. Walking down Marchmont Street I visualised the odd ménage à trois between Lytton Strachey, Vanessa Bell and Virginia Woolf of the Bloomsbury Group (who were generally very free with their amorous liaisons). As I walked through Gordon Square I thought of Virginia Woolf, cited as belittling her neighbour Katherine Mansfield whilst they lived on that square. However, that was nothing compared to George Bernard Shaw and H G Wells when they decided to lock horns. I was really struck by how undermining the culture of the literati at that time was, scoring points at the expense of others and royally sticking the verbal knife into competitors and friends, just to get the upper hand. But then I reflected, is it much different today in politics today? Prime Ministers Questions? Clinton versus Trump? Its not an attractive way of being, and am baffled that people still do it. But I digress. Drinking and literature in London have always gone together and as such *El Vino* in Fleet Street is described as an institution enjoyed by G K Chesterton (whose *Father Brown* series is set around London); and *Ye Olde Cheshire Cheese* has been a draw for several centuries (however, no-one ever seems to mention that this esteemed institution was once a brothel as well, and the only reason I know about that is because I have read an academic paper on the wonderful wall tiles that were discovered there demonstrating in relief (no pun intended) the various positions available to clients). Not of course forgetting Paddington Bear who trotted around London and longed to be an assistant in Fortnum and Masons Marmalade Department (unfortunately that department doesn't exist in real life, although the Home of the Hamper on Piccadilly certainly does very much exist). *Literary London* is an interesting and eclectic read that beautifully brings together the rich heritage of London writing life. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A stroll with a literary guide thru London and thru time By Ray Else I found the book full of interesting tidbits and atmospheric descriptions which made me want to return to London to visit the places mentioned

where the old writers drank and argued, schemed and entertained, and most importantly, shared with others all that London has to offer.

A fascinating guide to the best literary landmarks in London that takes the reader into publishing houses and along paths of inspiration, revealing the stories behind the stories.* One of the world's greatest literary cities, London has streets full of stories and buildings steeped in history.* The biggest and most beloved names in English literature have all been here, and you can still see or visit their stomping grounds and favourite places.* Follow Oscar Wilde from the salons to Clapham Junction; roam with Julian McClaren Ross through Fitzrovia, dropping in for a pint of three with Dylan Thomas at the Bricklayers' Arms; muse darkly over the Thames with Spencer, Eliot and Conrad; and watch aghast as Lorn Byron terrorizes his publisher on Albermarle Street...Moving through time and genre, from Spencer and Shakespeare to Amis and Barnes, from tragedy and romance to chick-lit and science fiction, Literary London is a snappy and informative guide, showing just why - as another famous local writer put it - he who is tired of tired of London is tired of life.

About the AuthorEloise Millar is the author of Wednesday's Child, which was shortlisted for the YoungMinds Award. She is also a journalist and co-founded Galley Beggar Press. Sam Jordison is the co-editor of the Crap Towns series of books and also writes for the Guardian. He co-founded Galley Beggar Press.