



Women in Love

D. H. Lawrence (1885 – 1930)

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| Read by: | Ruth Golding | Format: | MP3 CD in DVD case |
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Women in Love (1920) is the sequel to D. H. Lawrence's earlier novel *The Rainbow* (1915) that chronicles the continuing lives and loves of the Bragwen sisters in a midlands colliery town during the years leading up to the First World War. Gudren, a painter, carries on a stormy affair with Gerald Crich, owner of coal mine. Ursula, a schoolteacher, strikes up a friendship with Rupert Birkin, an intellectual school inspector. The emotional atmosphere is charged by an overhanging attraction psychological and physical attraction between the two men. Emotions intensify after the deaths of Crich's sister and father. When the couples embark on a holiday in the Alps, Gudrun takes up with a German artist, which provokes Gerald's rage and further tragedy. The

characters are modeled after Lawrence (Birkin), his wife Frieda (Ursula), and their friends the writers Katherine Mansfield (Gudren) and John Middleton Murry (Crich). Much attention and talk is given to the social and political issues of the day. Not surprisingly, the frank treatment of sexual matters was ahead of its time, and the book was first available only in the U. S. and only to small group of subscribers, owing to obscenity charges leveled against *The Rainbow*. It has come to be seen by critics such as Camille Paglia and Harold Bloom as an important influence on Western culture. The Modern Library ranked it 49th on its 1999 list of the 100 Best Novels in English of the 20th century.

David Herbert "D. H." Lawrence (September 11, 1885 – March 2, 1930) was an English writer and painter whose work focused on the dehumanizing effects of modern life and whose views were often unorthodox and controversial. He was the fourth son of a coal miner and a teacher and raised near Sherwood Forest in Nottinghamshire. He earned a scholarship to Nottingham High School and later a teaching certificate from University College. He moved to London in 1908 to write and teach and published short stories and a novel, *The White Peacock*. He suffered from bouts of pneumonia and in 1911 chose to write full time. In 1912 he met German aristocrat Frieda Weekley, mother of three and wife of a former professor, and married her in 1914 after her divorce. They spent much time traveling and living abroad, eventually becoming voluntary exiles, settling on a ranch in Taos, New Mexico after journeying through Ceylon and Australia. Lawrence published several travel books and works of criticism. His best known works are *Sons and Lovers* (1913), *The Rainbow* (1915) *Women in Love* (1920) and a censored version of *Lady Chatterly's Lover* (1928). The unexpurgated version published in 1960 was the subject of a famous obscenity trial that enabled publication if literary merit could be shown. Painting became increasingly important to Lawrence in his later years. He exhibited a collection in 1929 that met with a controversial reception in spite of praise from fellow artists and resulted in the confiscation of 13 of the 25 paintings, which he recovered after promised never to exhibit them in England again.