Situated between the Victorians and modernism, the fin de siècle is an exciting and rewarding period to study. In the literature and art of the 1890s, the processes of literary and cultural change can be seen in action. In this, more than any previous decade, literature was an active and controversial participant within debates over morality, aesthetics, politics and science, as Victorian certainties began to break down. Oscar Wilde, Aubrey Beardsley, H. G. Wells, Thomas Hardy and Olive Schreiner were among the most prominent, occasionally even notorious, writers and artists of the period, challenging establishment values and producing a distinctive literature of their own. This volume includes the main currents of radical and innovative thinking in the period, as well as the attempts to resist them. It will be of great interest to students of Victorian and twentieth-century literature, art and cultural history.

A complete list of books in the series is at the back of this book
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NOTES ON CONTRIBUTORS


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CHRONOLOGY

1885  General Gordon killed in the Sudan
      Stead, ‘The Tribute of Modern Babylon’
      Criminal Law Amendment Act passed
      Dictionary of National Biography founded
      Haggard, *King Solomon’s Mines*

1886  Trafalgar Square riots
      Haggard, *She* (–1887)
      Hardy, *The Mayor of Casterbridge* and *The Woodlanders* (–1887)
      Stevenson, *The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde* and *Kidnapped*
      Watts, *Hope*

1887  Queen Victoria’s Golden Jubilee
      Bloody Sunday riots

1888  Kodak box camera invented
      Jack the Ripper murders in Whitechapel
      First woman elected to London County Council
      Kipling, *Plain Tales from the Hills*

1889  First English performance of Ibsen’s *A Doll’s House*
      International Congress of Psychology in Paris
      Cleveland Street Scandal
      Prosecution of Zola by National Vigilance Association
      Booth, *Life and Labour in London* (–1903)
      S. Webb, *Fabian Essays in Socialism*

1890  Cecil Rhodes made Premier of the Cape Colony
      Morris, *News from Nowhere*
      Wilde, *The Picture of Dorian Gray* (and in revised edition in 1891)
1891 The Clitheroe case
First English performances of Ibsen’s *Ghosts, Hedda Gabler* and *The Lady from the Sea*
Hardy, *Tess of the D’Urbervilles*
Gissing, *New Grub Street*

1892 Wilde, *Lady Windermere’s Fan*
Shaw, *Widowers’ Houses*
Death of Tennyson
Morris founded the Kelmscott Press

1893 Independent Labour Party founded
New edition of Pater’s *Renaissance* with ‘Conclusion’ restored
Egerton, *Keynotes*
Wilde, *A Woman of No Importance*
Grand, *The Heavenly Twins*

1894 Women permitted to stand for Parish and District Councils
*Yellow Book* founded
Beerbohm, ‘A Defence of Cosmetics’
Kipling, *The Jungle Book*
Hardy, *Jude the Obscure* (–1895)
Sarah Grand coins the term ‘New Woman’

1895 Oscar Wilde found guilty of committing indecent acts, and imprisoned to two years’ hard labour
*The Importance of Being Earnest* and *An Ideal Husband* are taken off the stage
Marconi invents wireless telegraphy
Lumière brothers invent cinematography
Sully, *Studies of Childhood*
Nordau’s *Degeneration* translated into English
Wells, *The Time Machine*
Allen, *The Woman Who Did*
Sickert, *Gallery of the Old Bedford*
F. Macdonald, *The Sleeping Princess* (–1896)

1896 Founding of the *Daily Mail*
London School of Economics opens

1897 National Union of Women’s Suffrage Societies established
Queen Victoria’s Diamond Jubilee
Stoker, *Dracula*
James, ‘Turn of the Screw’

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<td>Hong Kong enlarged when Britain leases Chinese territories. Vagrancy Act increases penalties for homosexual soliciting.</td>
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<td>1901</td>
<td>Queen Victoria dies.</td>
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