Government censorship had a profound impact on the development of canonical modernism and on the public images of modernist writers. Celia Marshik argues that censorship can benefit as well as harm writers and the works they create in response to it. She weaves together histories of official and unofficial censorship, of individual writers and their relationships to such censorship, and of British modernism. Throughout, Marshik draws on an extraordinary range of evidence, including the files of government agencies and social purity organizations. She analyzes how works were written, revised, published, and performed in relation to this complex web of social forces. Chapters on Dante Gabriel Rossetti, Bernard Shaw, Virginia Woolf, James Joyce, and Jean Rhys demonstrate that by both reacting against and complying with the forces of repression, writers reaped personal and stylistic benefits for themselves and for society at large.

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Abbreviations

CRIM     Central Criminal Court records, National Archives, London
CUST     Customs records, National Archives, London
FO       Foreign Office records, National Archives, London
HO       Home Office records, National Archives, London
LCC      Lord Chamberlain’s Correspondence records, British Library
         Manuscripts Division, London
LO       Law Officers’ records, National Archives, London
MEPO     Metropolitan Police records, National Archives, London
NVA      National Vigilance Association Archives, Women’s Library, London