Modernism, Feminism, and Jewishness explores the aesthetic and political roles performed by Jewish characters in women’s fiction between the World Wars. Focusing mainly on British modernism, it argues that female authors enlist a multifaceted vision of Jewishness to help them shape fictions that are thematically daring and formally experimental. Maren Linett analyzes the meanings and motifs that Djuna Barnes, Jean Rhys, Dorothy Richardson, Sylvia Townsend Warner, and Virginia Woolf associate with Jewishness. The writers’ simultaneous identification with and distancing from Jews produced complex portrayals in which Jews serve at times as models for the authors’ art, and at times as foils against which their writing is defined. By examining the political and literary power of semitic discourse for these key women authors, Linett fills a significant gap in the account of the cultural and literary forces that shaped modernism.

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For Dominic and Ruth
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Abbreviations

References to these sources will be given parenthetically in the text.


List of abbreviations
