

# **English Authors Series: Florence Nightingale**

Colleen A Hobbs



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A volume in "Twayne's Authors Series" of literary criticism offers a critical introduction to the life and work of a particular writer, to the history and influence of a literary movement, or to the development of a literary genre. Primarily devoted to critical interpretation and discussion of an author's work, the study not only takes account of major literary trends and important contributions in scholarship and criticism but also provides new critical insights and an original point of view. "Authors Series" volumes are rooted in the original works themselves and address readers ranging from advanced high school students to university professors. The book suggests to the informed reader new ways of considering a writer's work. A reader new to the work under examination will, after reading the "Authors Series" study, be compelled to turn to the originals, bringing to the reading a basic knowledge and fresh critical perspectives. As legend has it, Florence Nightingale was a near-saintly figure, the Victorian ideal of the feminine nurse. Viewed as the founder of modern nursing, Nightingale was immortalized in ballads portraits, and figurines. Yet she was far less than saintly and far more than a nurse; Nightingale was a strong-willed, irascible advocate for hospital reform who could simultaneously challenge and accept notions of woman s role in nineteenth century patriarchal society. These complexities are the focus of Colleen Hobb's "Florence Nightingale," the first book-length study of Nightingale's texts on travel and nursing, spiritual autobiography, correspondence, reports on administrative and healthcare reform and more. Drawing on primary materials and recently publishedcritical essays, letter collections and biographical works, Hobbs provides a comprehensive, gracefully written guide to Nightingale's works.



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