Natalie Clifford Barney and the Decadence of Literary Paris

Natalie Clifford Barney was an American writer, salon hostess, and one of the most influential figures in the literary and artistic scene of Paris in the early 20th century. She was known for her unconventional lifestyle, her open relationships, and her support for women's rights. Her salon, which she held at her home on the Rue Jacob, was a gathering place for some of the most brilliant minds of the time, including Ezra Pound, Gertrude Stein, Djuna Barnes, and Sylvia Beach.



Wild Heart: A Life: Natalie Clifford Barney and the

Decadence of Literary Paris by Suzanne Rodriguez-Hunter

4.6 out of 5

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Barney was born in Dayton, Ohio, in 1876. She came from a wealthy family, and she received a privileged education. She studied art and music in Paris, and she began writing poetry and fiction at a young age. In 1902,

she married a wealthy French artist named Robert de Heredia. The marriage was not a happy one, and Barney soon began to explore her own sexuality. She had relationships with both men and women, and she became known for her open and unconventional lifestyle.

In 1908, Barney met the writer and translator Romaine Brooks. Brooks became Barney's lifelong companion and muse. The two women lived together for over 50 years, and they were a fixture on the Paris literary scene. Barney's salon was a place where artists, writers, and intellectuals could come together to discuss their work and ideas. Barney was a generous patron of the arts, and she helped to launch the careers of many young artists and writers.

Barney was also a prolific writer. She published several novels, short stories, and poems. Her work is often characterized by its exploration of gender and sexuality, and it was often controversial in its time. Barney was a strong advocate for women's rights, and she wrote extensively about the importance of female friendship and empowerment.

Barney died in Paris in 1972. She is buried in the Cimetière des Rois in Fontainebleau, France. Her legacy as a writer and salon hostess continues to inspire artists and writers to this day.

The Decadence of Literary Paris

The early 20th century was a time of great change and upheaval in Paris. The city was a magnet for artists and writers from all over the world, and it was a hotbed of new ideas and artistic movements. The decadence of the period was characterized by a rejection of traditional values and a

celebration of the senses. Artists and writers explored themes of sexuality, gender, and identity, and they pushed the boundaries of artistic expression.

Natalie Clifford Barney was one of the leading figures of the decadent movement in Paris. Her salon was a place where artists and writers could come together to discuss their work and ideas, and it was a catalyst for some of the most important artistic and literary movements of the time. Barney was a strong advocate for freedom of expression, and she helped to create an environment in which artists and writers could feel free to explore their own creativity.

The decadence of literary Paris was a complex and fascinating period. It was a time of great creativity and innovation, and it helped to shape the course of modern art and literature. Natalie Clifford Barney was one of the most important figures of this period, and her legacy continues to inspire artists and writers to this day.

Further Reading

- Natalie Clifford Barney and the Decadence of Literary Paris by Suzanne Rodriguez
- Natalie Clifford Barney at the Poetry Foundation
- Natalie Clifford Barney: A Transatlantic Life by Susan Sniader Lanser



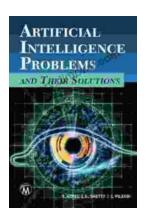
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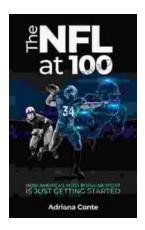
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