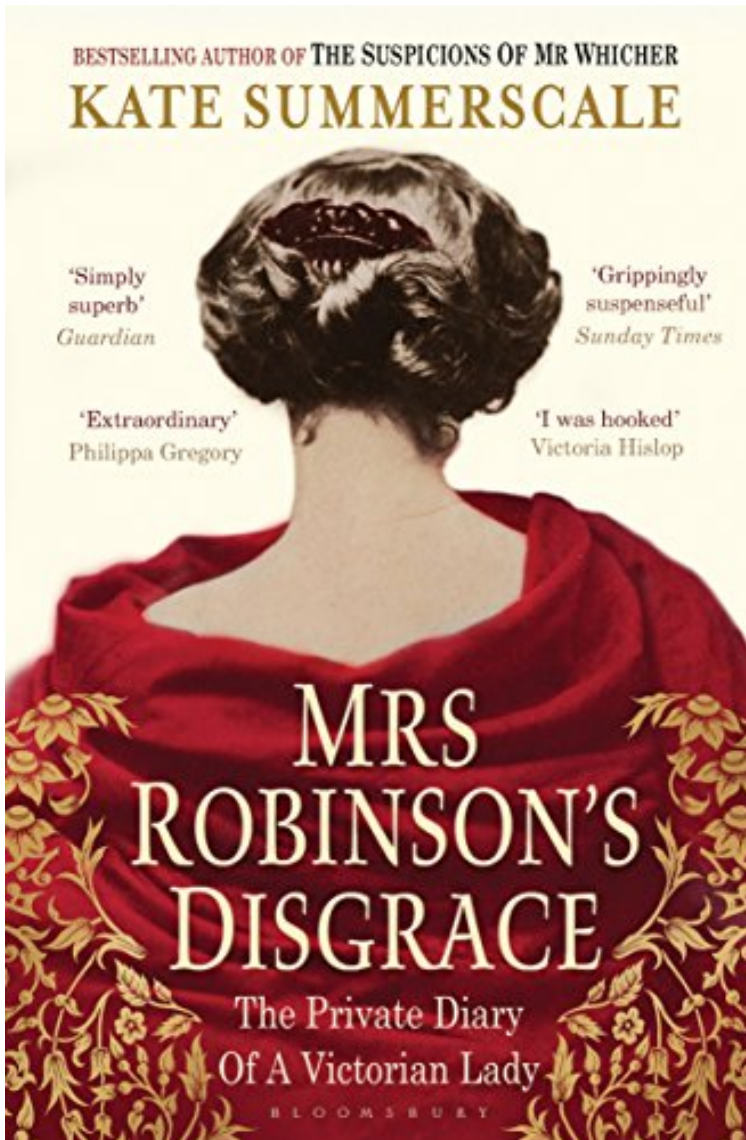


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# Mrs Robinson's Disgrace: The Private Diary of a Victorian Lady



Par Kate Summerscale  
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Prsentation de l'diteurOn a mild winter's evening in 1850, Isabella Robinson set out for a party. Her carriage bumped across the wide cobbled streets of Edinburgh's Georgian New Town and drew up at 8 Royal Circus, a grand sandstone terrace lit by gas lamps.The guests were gathered in the high, airy drawing rooms on the first floor, the ladies in glinting silk and satin pulled tight over boned corsets; the gentlemen in tailcoats, waistcoats and neckties. When Mrs Robinson joined the throng she was at once enchanted by a Mr Edward Lane, a handsome medical student ten years her junior. He was 'fascinating', she told her diary, before

chastising herself for being so susceptible to a man's charms. But a wish had taken hold of her, which she was to find hard to shake...Revue de presseLike her previous book, I was hooked after the first few pages. It's as good as non-fiction could possibly get (Victoria Hislop, Daily Mail )Extraordinary ... As one would expect from the author of *The Suspicions of Mr Whicher*, the material here is handled with confident subtlety. The history goes from the individual to the individual's world with seductive ease. This is a highly considered social history teased ... fascinating \*\*\*\*\* (philippa Gregory Daily Telegraph )Summerscale strikes non-fiction gold for the third time (Independent on Sunday )As in the wildly successful *The Suspicions of Mr Whicher*, the strange tale of Mrs Robinson acts as a whirlpool for all the furious undercurrents of an era. Summerscale's brilliance lies not only in recognising the power of a particular story, but in charting, with beautiful precision, its strange echoes and reverberations \*\*\*\*\* (craig Brown Mail on Sunday 'Book of the Week' )You'll find *Fifty Shades of Grey* on beaches everywhere ... but the story of Mrs Robinson deserves a place on summer reading lists. She is pretty hot stuff (Boston Globe )A masterful retelling of a true Victorian scandal ... a breathtaking achievement ... Summerscale's account of this court case is faultless; her seemingly inexhaustible capacity for research renders what could be tedious and vividly dry alive ... I'm all admiration: she has turned a sepia photograph, curling and tattered, into a film that runs through the mind in glorious and unimpeachable Technicolor (rachel Cooke Observer )Book of the week ... a winning blend of biography and courtroom drama - and an important slice of social history ... an absorbing tale, admirably told by a mistress of her craft (valerie Grove The Times )Grippingly suspenseful ... Mrs Robinson's *Disgrace* displays a scalpel-sharp investigative mind, and it vividly conveys the immediate surroundings of the case, from the stench of the polluted Thames infiltrating Westminster Hall to the degradations of Victorian marriage (john Carey Sunday Times )As a guide to mid-Victorian cultural life ... Summerscale is simply superb, and she sets a fine example of what cultural history can do (Guardian )Told with dazzling detail and exquisite tenderness, this non-fiction tale reads like a perfect novel (Elle )Absorbing ... grippingly told ... Summerscale's book is detailed, expansive and well informed (philip Hensher Spectator )It's brilliant. Summerscale is a historian who writes like a novelist. A good novelist (lev Grossman Time Magazine )Moving, compelling and brilliantly executed (Daily Telegraph, Books of the Year )The best kind of detective story ... Summerscale triumphantly avoids fairy ink and poesy both, producing a gripping account of the destruction of a marriage ... Sure to be a hit (Sunday Telegraph )This real-life *Madame Bovary's* ensuing divorce case scandalised society and Kate Summerscale brilliantly re-creates a Victorian world clinging to its rigid ideas about marriage and women's sexuality --(Good Housekeeping )Her first book since the genre-busting *Mr Whicher*, and it makes a suitably gripping follow-up ... Summerscale puts this peculiar case in a wonderfully rich context of fads of the day ... Her courtroom reconstructions are vivid and enthralling, her research is impeccable and her narration coolly authoritative as she draws together what was happening around her subject and makes Mrs Robinson's volatile state of mind much more explicable -- (Claire Harman (Evening Standard)'Her first book since the genre-busting *Mr Whicher*, and it makes a suitably gripping follow-up ... Summerscale puts this peculiar case in a wonderfully rich context of fads of the day ... Her courtroom reconstructions are vivid and enthralling, her research is impeccable and her narration coolly authoritative as she draws together what was happening around her subject and makes Mrs Robinson's volatile state of mind much more explicable' -- Claire Harman, Evening Standard'Where Kate Summerscale's exhaustively researched book is most fascinating and disturbing is in laying bare contemporary anxieties about female sexuality' \*\*\*\*\* -- Sunday Express'Far more than the account of a failed marriage and its aftermath - or even the story of a torrid affair, imaginary or otherwise. In the manner of her prize-winning *The Suspicions of Mr Whicher*, Kate Summerscale takes the records and reports of the court case and treats them like a detective story, skillfully building up the suspense' -- Financial Times'Utterly engrossing' -- Woman Home'A marvellously compelling narrative as well as a superb piece of historical detection. But more than that, Summerscale has astutely positioned the case at the intersection of various legal and social developments' -- Times Literary Supplement'A great book-group read' -- Red'A gripping read: thoughtful, and studded with asides on Victorian culture' -- The Lady'Kate Summerscale follows *The Suspicions of Mr Whicher*, her gripping reconstruction of a Victorian murder case, with a look at domestic horror of a very different kind. It's the heart-breaking true story of Isabella Robinson' -- Irish Times '30 Great Summer Reads'"A fascinating insight into the inequalities of Victorian society, women's place in it and the boundaries of privacy' -- Psychologies'A fascinating story of desire, prejudice and cover-up ... Summerscale turns super-sleuth again' --Sebastian Shakespeare, TatlerPrsentation de l'diteurOn a mild winter's evening in 1850, Isabella Robinson set out for a party. Her carriage bumped across the wide cobbled streets of

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