



## **A Life of Her Own: Feminism in Vera Brittain's Theory, Fiction, and Biography**

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*This study reconstructs Brittain's feminist theory, which mainly refutes assumptions made about women, supports companionate marriage, and demands the communal reorganisation of child care and domestic work to enable a married woman to work outside her home. It compares her theory to her five novels. Doing so, it uncovers revealing feminist 'flaws', above all that marriage remains the sine qua non for a woman's happiness.*

*The study describes Brittain's way to the top as a formidable obstacle race, in which she constantly had to fight the men she loved, her children, her parents, and resulting domesticity in order to find time to write "the book of the decade". She reached her goal with the publication of *Testament of Youth* 1933.*

**INHALT**

*Das Buch rekonstruiert Brittain's feministische Theorie, die vor allem Unterstellungen gegen Frauen widerlegt, eine 'kameradschaftliche Ehe' propagiert und die kommunale Reorganisation von Kinderbetreuung und Hausarbeit fordert, um verheirateten Frauen eine Erwerbstätigkeit zu ermöglichen.*

*Desweiteren wird Brittain's Theorie mit ihren fünf Romanen verglichen. Dabei werden aufschlussreiche feministische 'Mängel' aufgedeckt, insbesondere derjenige, dass die Ehe Grundvoraussetzung für das weibliche Glück bleibt.*

*Schließlich wird Brittain's Weg zum Gipfel als ein furchterregender Hindernislauf beschrieben, auf dem sie ständig gegen die geliebten Männer, ihre Kinder, ihre Eltern und die daraus resultierende Hausarbeit ankämpfen musste, um die Zeit zu finden, "das Buch des Jahrzehnts" zu schreiben. Sie erreichte ihr Ziel mit der Veröffentlichung von *Testament of Youth* im Jahre 1933.*