



## Conflicting Stories: American Women Writers at the Turn into the Twentieth Century

By Elizabeth Ammons

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The early 1890s through the late 1920s saw an explosion in serious long fiction by women in the United States. Considering a wide range of authors--African American, Asian American, white American, and Native American--this book looks at the work of seventeen writers from that period: Frances Ellen Harper, Charlotte Perkins Gilman, Sarah Orne Jewett, Alice Dunbar-Nelson, Kate Chopin, Pauline Hopkins, Gertrude Stein, Mary Austin, Sui Sin Far, Willa Cather, Humishuma, Jessie Fauset, Edith Wharton, Ellen Glasgow, Anzia Yezierska, Edith Summers Kelley, and Nella Larsen. The discussion focuses on the differences in their work and the similarities that unite them, particularly their determination to experiment with narrative form as they explored and voiced issues of power for women. Analyzing the historical context that both enabled and limited American women writers at the turn of the century, Ammons provides detailed readings of many texts and offers extensive commentary on the interaction between race and gender. This book joins the deepening discussion of modern women writers' creation of themselves as artists and raises fundamental questions about the shape of American literary history as it has been constructed in the academy.

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**Conflicting Stories: American Women Writers at the Turn into the Twentieth Century** By Elizabeth Ammons **Bibliography**

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### Editorial Review

#### Review

"An exciting collection which places superb turn-of-the-century women writers in the context of pioneering artists, a long overdue revisionary perspective."--Roseanne Hoefel, *Alma College*

"A worthy and important contribution to Women's Studies."--June Sochen, *Northeastern Illinois University*

"Fills a gap; places black women writers in context of American women's literary history."--Fahamisha Patricia Brown, *Boston College*

"Thanks to a glorious wealth of historical and biographical detail, Elizabeth Ammons's new book proves beyond a shadow of a doubt what many had only hoped was true: that the history of American women's writing, created by Native American, African American, Asian American, Jewish American, and white Christian American authors, comprises one diverse and variegated body of work, a body all too often suppressed, effaced, erased, but here celebrated for its richness, its suffering, and its triumph."--*American Literature*

"Brilliant....This is a very important book whose influence will be felt for a long time. It should be read by all serious teachers and scholars of the period and should have a prominent place in advanced literature courses. I recommend it highly."--*Journal of English and Germanic Philology*

#### About the Author

Elizabeth Ammons is at Tufts University.

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