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By Julie Watt

Sussex Academic Press, United Kingdom, 2010. Hardback. Condition: New. UK ed.. Language: English . Brand New Book. This is a double biography of Letitia Elizabeth Landon, best-selling Regency poet known to her contemporaries as the female Byron , and her husband George Maclean, British administrator on the Gold Coast, known as the Father of Modern Ghana. L.E.L.'s reading public adored her writing and poetry and made her the best-selling female author of her time. As an early media celebrity her life was the subject of society gossip, so her sudden death in Africa shocked the nation (a melancholy catastrophe ran one headline) and led to rumours of suicide or murder. Her husband's name was henceforth blackened by London society, which unwittingly superimposed the plots of L.E.L.'s fictions upon the circumstances of her death. Despite the fact that Maclean cleared 200 miles of Western African coast of British slave trading, made peace with the warlike Asante, instituted a judicial system still in use in many African democracies, and encouraged successful and fair trading, the scandal unjustly ruined his career. According to the inquest L.E.L.'s death was caused by her improper use of a prescribed medicine, but the rumour...



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