

A black and white photograph of three women in mid-20th-century attire. One woman in a dark coat is in the foreground, looking towards the others. Two other women, one in a pink jacket and one in a blue jacket, are standing behind her. The woman in the blue jacket is holding a cigarette and a handbag. The scene is set outdoors with a building in the background.

# The Girls of Slender Means

'One of Spark's most  
evocative novels'

Anne Tyler

*Muriel Spark*

# Slender Means

**Angela Burt**



## Slender Means:

**Comedy and the Woman Writer** Judy Little, 1983-01-01 Recent critics have affirmed the difficulty perhaps the impossibility of defining modern comedy at the same time some feminist scholars are seeking to understand the special comedy often present in literature written by women Comedy and the Woman Writer responds to both these concerns of recent criticism feminist literary theory and theories of comedy Judy Little develops a critical apparatus for identifying feminist comedy in recent fiction especially the radical political and psychological implications of this comedy and then applies and tests her theory by examining the novels of Virginia Woolf and Muriel Spark Despite recent scholarly attention to Woolf the profound comedy of her work has been largely overlooked and the comic fiction of Spark has seldom had the responsible and attentive criticism that it deserves The introductory chapter draws upon anthropology and sociology as well as literary criticism and the fiction of feminist writers such as Woolf Doris Lessing and Monique Wittig to define a modern feminist comedy Four central chapters then explore the implications of this comedy in the novels of Woolf and Spark Little distinguishes between on the one hand several varieties of traditional comedy and satire and on the other the festive or liminal comedy to which feminist comedy belongs Both Woolf and Spark mock centuries old mythic patterns and behaviors deriving from basic social norms as well as the values emerging from these norms It is one thing the author points out to find manners amusing to scourge vices or to mock the follies of lovers it is a much more drastic act of the imagination to mock the very norms against which comedy has traditionally judged vices follies and eccentricities While the comedy of Woolf and Spark has some precedent in festive or liminal celebrations during which even basic values and behavior are abandoned feminist comedy displays its radical nature by implying that there is no resolution to the inverted overturned world the world in revolutionary transition The final chapter considers briefly in the light of the critical model of feminist comedy the work of several other twentieth century writers including Jean Rhys Penelope Moritmer and Margaret Drabble The presence of radical comedy in the fiction of these and other writers suggests the need for continuing attention to the theory of feminist comedy proposed in this study *Vocation and Identity in the Fiction of Muriel Spark* Rodney Stenning Edgecombe, 1990 Selecting novels representative of distinct phases in Muriel Spark's career Rodney Stenning Edgecombe explores their themes style and structure in a detailed way for the first time Edgecombe's approach brings to life the delicate nuances rich allusions and complicated ironies of Spark's fiction His careful reading of the novels makes this a penetrating assessment of an important writer Publishers website *Ian Watt* Marina MacKay, 2018-11-15 Before his masterpiece *The Rise of the Novel* made him one of the most influential post war British literary critics Ian Watt was a soldier a prisoner of war of the Japanese and a forced labourer on the notorious Burma Thailand Railway Both an intellectual biography and an intellectual history of the mid century this book reconstructs Watt's wartime world these were harrowing years of mass death deprivation and terror but also ones in which communities and institutions were improvised under the starkest of emergency

conditions Ian Watt *The Novel and the Wartime Critic* argues that many of our foundational stories about the novel about the novel's origins and development and about the social moral and psychological work that the novel accomplishes can be traced to the crises of the Second World War and its aftermath      *Key Comprehension New Edition Teacher's Handbook 3* Angela Burt, 2005-04-28 Essential skills practice for better reading and writing      **SSC CGL Tier 1 Exam | 1300+ Solved MCQ Questions (10 Mock tests + 12 Sectional Tests)** EduGorilla Prep Experts, 2022-08-03 Best Selling Book in English Edition for SSC CGL Tier 1 Exam with objective type questions as per the latest syllabus given by the SSC Compare your performance with other students using Smart Answer Sheets in EduGorilla's SSC CGL Tier 1 Exam Practice Kit SSC CGL Tier 1 Exam Preparation Kit comes with 22 Tests 10 Mock Tests 12 Sectional Tests with the best quality content Increase your chances of selection by 14X SSC CGL Tier 1 Exam Prep Kit comes with well structured and 100% detailed solutions for all the questions Clear exam with good grades using thoroughly Researched Content by experts      **Existence** Rollo May, 1994-09 Since its publication Existence has been regarded as the most important complete and lucid account of the existentialist approach to psychology From the works of the leading spokesmen of the existential analytic movement the editors have selected classic case histories and other writings to define the approach that seeks to understand mental illness in the words of Rollo May not as deviations from the conceptual yardstick of this or that psychiatrist but as deviations in the structure of the particular patient's existence the disruptions of his condition humane      **The British and Irish Novel Since 1960** James Acheson, 1991-09-03 The essays in this collection survey the work of some of the most important British and Irish novelists of today They not only consider afresh the work of novelists who established their reputations before 1960 such as Doris Lessing and William Golding they also discuss the work of more recent novelists among them Kazuo Ishiguro Angela Carter and Graham Swift The contributors are drawn from various parts of the English speaking world and provide a variety of original perspectives on the novelists concerned      *Edinburgh Companion to Muriel Spark* Michael Gardiner, 2010-07-06 This Companion brings together an international Brodie set of critics to trace the history impact reception and major themes of Spark's work from her early poetry to her last novel It encompasses the range of Spark's output pursuing contextual lines of approach including biography geography gender identity nation and religion and considering her legacy and continuing influence in the twenty first century Spark emerges here as a serious thinker on issues as diverse as the Welfare State secularisation decolonisation and anti psychiatry and a writer whose work may be placed alongside Proust Joyce Nabokov and Lessing The critics collected here are mindful of how although overwhelmingly known as a novelist by the time of her first novel *The Comforters* in 1957 Spark already had a significant profile through poetry biographical criticism and literary journalism as chair of the Poetry Society and editor of the Poetry Review and as author or co author of a number of scholarly studies of writers including Wordsworth Mary Shelley the Brontes Cardinal Newman and John Masefield Within a relatively modest space this Companion touches on the whole range of Spark's work and in introducing the oeuvre thematically for

those looking to explore this elegant and challenging author further also sets the agenda for future Spark studies British Literature in Transition, 1940-1960: Postwar Gill Plain, 2019 Examines debates central to postwar British culture showing the pressures of reconstruction and the mutual implication of war and peace **The Imperial Dictionary, English, Technological, and Scientific** John Ogilvie, 1856 **The Imperial Dictionary** Ogilvie, 1863 **The Promise of Welfare in the Postwar British and Anglophone Novel** Kelly M. Rich, 2023 A study of the literature of the Second World War and its aftermath focusing on the welfare state and wartime visions of rebuilding Britain **The Imperial Dictionary** John Ogilvie, 1861 **Acts of Faith and Imagination** Brent Little, Mark Bosco, SJ, 2023-08-04 Acts of Faith and Imagination wagers that fiction written by Catholic authors assists readers to reflect critically on the question what is faith To speak of a person's faith life is to speak of change and development As a narrative form literature can illustrate the dynamics of faith which remains in flux over the course of one's life Because human beings must possess faith in something whether religious or not it inevitably has a narrative structure faith ebbs and flows flourishes and decays develops and stagnates Through an exploration of more than a dozen Catholic authors novels and short stories Brent Little argues that Catholic fiction encourages the reader to reflect upon their faith holistically that is the way faith informs one's affections and how a person conceives and interacts with the world as embodied beings Amidst the diverse stories of modern and contemporary fiction a consistent pattern emerges Catholic fiction portrays faith at its most fundamental often unconscious level as an act of the imagination Faith is the way one imagines themselves others and creation A person's primary faith conditions how they live in the world regardless of the level of conscious reflection and regardless of whether this is a religious faith Acts of Faith and Imagination investigates the creative depth and vitality of the Catholic literary imagination by bringing late modern Catholic authors into dialogue with more contemporary ones Readers will then consider well known works such as those by Graham Greene Flannery O'Connor and Muriel Spark in the fresh light of contemporary stories by Toni Morrison Alice McDermott Uwem Akpan and several others *Bulletin of the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics*, 1915 *The Biblical Repertory and Princeton Review* Charles Hodge, Lyman Hotchkiss Atwater, 1858 **Government Aid to Home Owning and Housing of Working People in Foreign Countries** United States. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 1915 *Miscellaneous Series* United States. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 1913 Parliamentary Debates New Zealand. Parliament, 1919 **Encyclopedia of the British Novel** Virginia Brackett, Victoria Gaydosik, 2015-04-22 Praise for the print edition comprehensive Recommended

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