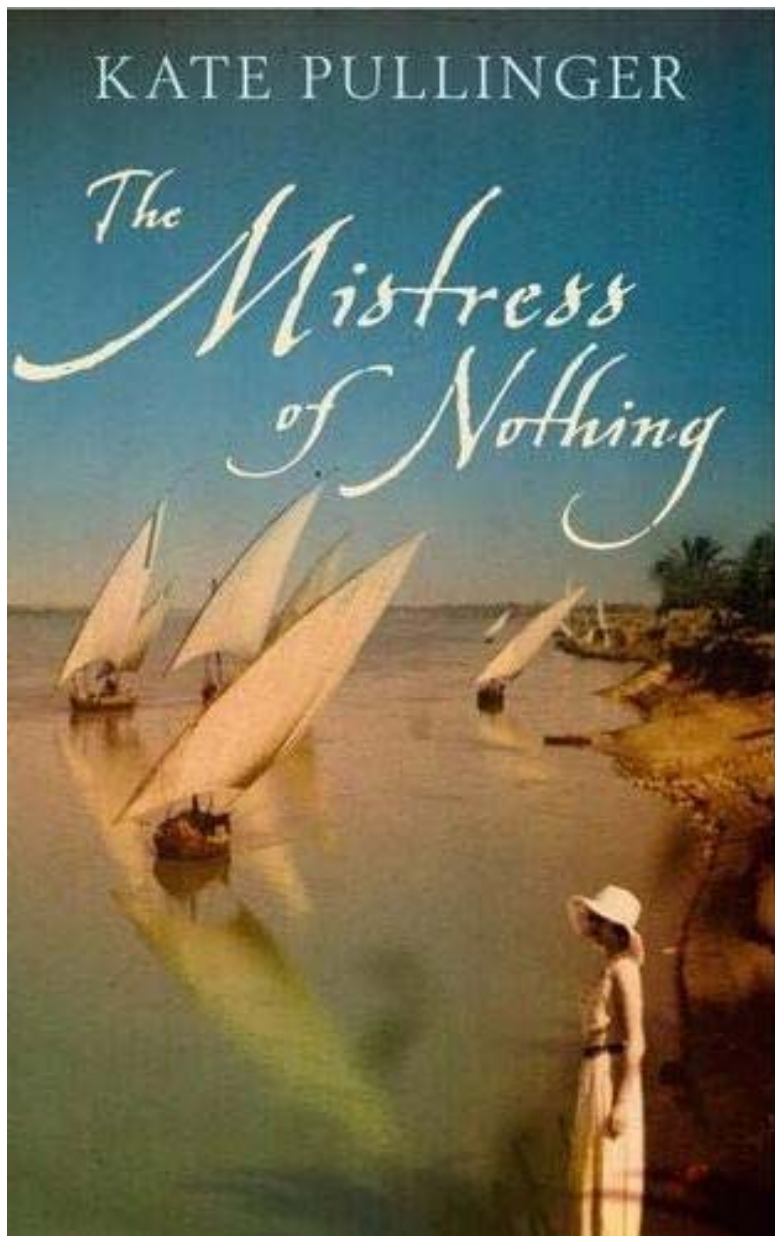


Reader's Roadmap

Helping you navigate the world of books



F P9822m



Book of the Month
February 2010



Reader's Roadmaps enable readers to pursue threads of interest inspired by a book they've just read.

The Mistress of Nothing F P9822m

Lady Duff Gordon is the toast of Victorian London but when her debilitating tuberculosis means exile, she and her devoted lady's maid, Sally, set sail for Egypt. It is Sally who describes the story with a mixture of wonder and trepidation of their travels down the Nile to a new life in Luxor, accompanied by the newly hired personal guide, Omar. Lady Duff Gordon eventually frees herself from her Victorian garments, taking to native dress, throwing herself into weekly salons and Arabic language lessons, not to mention the excursions to Pharaoh's tombs. Sally too adapts to this new world, which affords her heady and heartfelt freedoms never known before. She finds out quickly, however, that freedom is a luxury a maid can ill-afford, and when Sally grasps more than her status entitles her to, she is brutally reminded that she is mistress of nothing. Lady Duff Gordon's illness forces her to be away from her beloved family in England and so she relies on Sally's service and camaraderie. It is only when Sally begins to keep secrets from her lady, that their stay in Egypt becomes uncomfortable and their relationship distant. *The Mistress of Nothing* is written with an easy flow of words and a touch of Victorian air. The novel captures friendship, romance, deceit and politics. The descriptions of the heat in Alexandria and the exotic life of the Middle East, as well as how Sally will manage with a dying companion, all blend together to keep the story interesting.

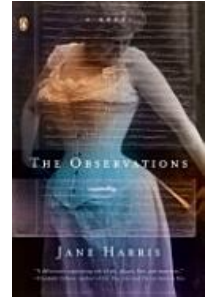
Kate Pullinger

Kate Pullinger was born in Cranbrook, British Columbia, and went to high school on Vancouver Island. She dropped out of McGill University, Montreal, after a year and a half of studying Philosophy and Literature. She then spent a year working in a copper mine in the Yukon, northern Canada, where she crushed rocks and saved money. She spent that money traveling and ended up in London, England, where she has been ever since. Pullinger has won the Governor General's Award for Fiction 2009 for *The Mistress of Nothing*. Her other works include three previous novels and some short story collections. She also writes for film and for the digital media. She has lectured and taught widely and has also been writer-in-residence in many places. Pullinger currently teaches on the Masters of Arts in Creative Writing and New Media at De Montfort University, Leicester.



Domestic Service – Fiction

- Desperate Remedies by Thomas Hardy
F H272d
- The Observations by Jane Harris
F H2975o
- The Nature of Monsters by Clare Clark
F C5922n
- The Glass of Time: The Secret Life of Miss Esperanza Gorst by Michael Cox
F C8772g
- Space Between Us by Thrity Umrigar
F U52s
- Alias Grace by Margaret Atwood
F A887a
- Minaret by Leila Aboulela
F A155m



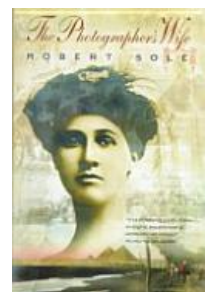
Tuberculosis Patients - Fiction

- The World Below by Sue Miller
F M6513wo
- The Air We Breathe by Andrea Barrett
F B2745a
- The Samurai's Garden by Gail Tsukiyama
F T8825s
- Behold the Many by Lois-Ann Yamanaka
F Y193b
- Consumption by Kevin Patterson
F P3172co
- Some Things That Stay by Sarah Willis
F W7353s



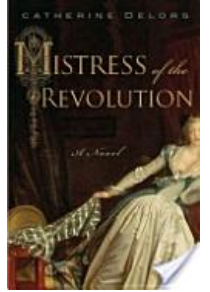
Egypt - History - Fiction

- The Photographer's Wife by Robert Solé
F S6852p
- The Woman Who Would Be Pharaoh by William Klein
F K649w
- The Rosetta Key by William Dietrich
F D566r
- Dreamers of the Day by Mary Doria Russell
F R965d
- Our Horses in Egypt by Rosalind Belben
F B426o
- Making It Up by Penelope Lively
F L784ma



Aristocracy - Fiction

- Mistress of the Revolution by Catherine Delors
F D3622m
- A Factory of Cunning by Philippa Stockley
F S865f
- Bluebird, or, The Invention of Happiness by Sheila Kohler
F K793b
- The Buccaneers by Edith Wharton
F W553b
- Père Goirot by Honoré de Balzac
F B198pe
- Misfortune by Wesley Stace
F S7752m



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