EMILY DICKINSON

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Further titles are in preparation

Women Writers

EMILY
DICKINSON

Joan Kirkby

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MACMILLAN

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First published 1991

Published by
MACMILLAN EDUCATION LTD
Houndmills, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG21 2XS
and London
Companies and representatives
throughout the world

British Library Cataloguing in Publication Data
Kirkby, Joan

Emily Dickinson. — (Women Writers).

1. Poetry in English, American writers, Dickinson, Emily,
1830–1886 — Critical studies

I. Title . II. Series

811'.4

ISBN 978-0-333-42067-6 ISBN 978-1-349-21307-8 (eBook)
DOI 10.1007/978-1-349-21307-8

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For the Busketts and the Shermans

Acknowledgements

I would like to acknowledge my admiration and gratitude to Territa and Carlton Lowenberg whose inspired dedication to Emily Dickinson has taken form in one of the finest collections of Dickinson material in the world, an enduring tribute to Dickinson and a resource to scholars forever. My own debt to them is without 'circumference'. I would also like to record my gratitude for the intellectual and collegial example of James Tulip, Jane Goodall, Peter Goodall, Brenda Niall and Elaine Barry. I have enjoyed discussions of Dickinson with Marie Tulip, Vicky Marquis, Chris Wilcox and Lisabeth During. However, my special debt is to those fellow enthusiasts of the inner life – 'the lonesome Glee' that 'sanctifies the Mind' – David Johnson and Jane Goodall whose practical and spiritual sustenance was also boundless.

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Editors' Preface

The study of women's writing has been long neglected by a male critical establishment both in academic circles and beyond. As a result, many women writers have either been unfairly neglected, or have been marginalised in some way, so that their true influence and importance has been ignored. Other women writers have been accepted by male critics and academics, but on terms which seem, to many women readers of this generation, to be false or simplistic. In the past the internal conflicts involved in being a woman in a male-dominated society have been largely ignored by readers of both sexes, and this has affected our reading of women's work. The time has come for a serious re-assessment of women's writing in the light of what we understand today.

This series is designed to help in that re-assessment. All the books are written by women, because we believe that men's understanding of feminist critique is only, at best, partial. And besides, men have held the floor quite long enough.

EVA FIGES
ADELE KING