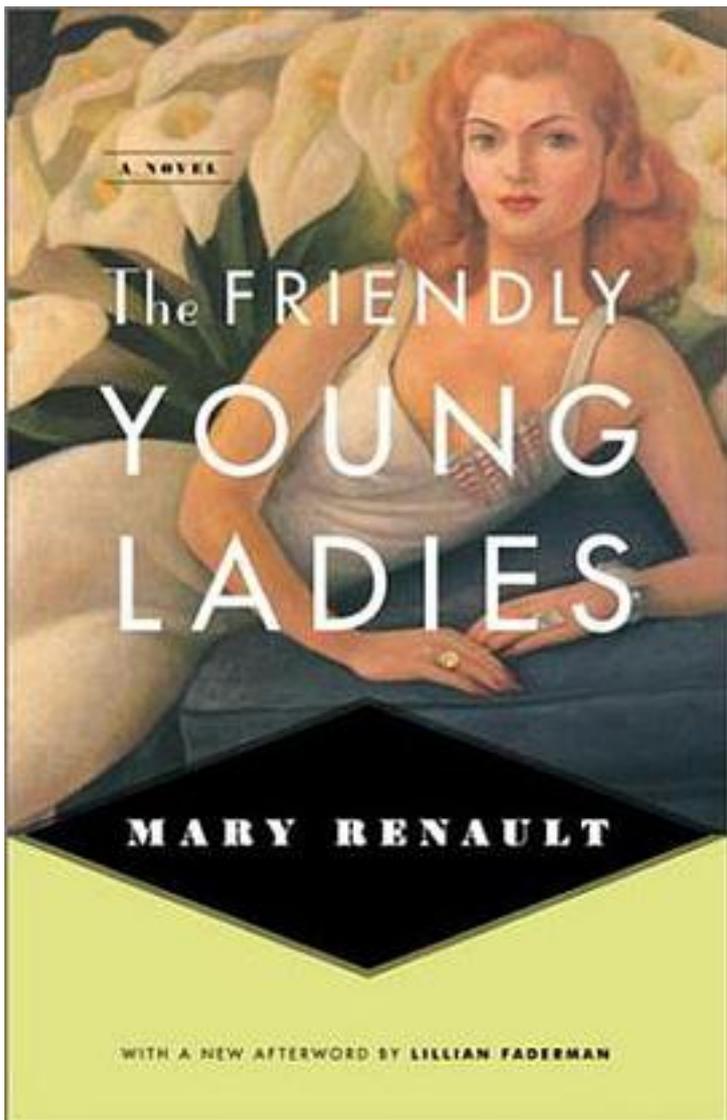


# The Friendly Young Ladies (Vintage)



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著者:Mary Renault

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Set in 1937, *The Friendly Young Ladies* is a romantic comedy of off-Bloomsbury bohemia. Sheltered, naïve, and just eighteen, Elsie leaves the stifling environment of her parents' home in Cornwall to seek out her sister, Leo, who had run away nine years earlier. She finds Leo sharing a houseboat, and a bed, with the beautiful, fair-haired Helen. While Elsie's arrival seems innocent enough, it is the first of a series of events that will turn Helen and Leo's contented life inside out. Soon a randy young doctor is chasing after all three women at once, a neighborly friendship begins to show an erotic tinge, and long-quiet ghosts from Leo's past begin to surface. Before long, no one is sure just who feels what for whom.

Mary Renault wrote this delightfully provocative novel in the early 1940s, creating characters that are lighthearted, charming, and free-spirited partly in answer to the despair characteristic of Radclyffe Hall's *The Well of Loneliness* or Lillian Hellman's *The Children's Hour*. The result is a witty and stylish story that offers exceptional insight into the world of upcoming writers and artists of in 1930s London, chronicling their rejection of society's established sexual mores and their heroic pursuits of art and life.

作者介绍:

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## 评论

瑞璫特關於女同性戀且最具自傳色彩的作品，寫於二戰終結之際，遠在她成為歷史小說大師之前。偶見精彩之筆，總體有點囉嗦散亂。我特別喜歡故事中她的影子——女作家Leo的down-to-earth toughness，以及她同業Joe對Milton搞笑的「毒舌」批評。以書論書實在不算優異，卻讓我彷彿第一次認識了瑞璫特這個女人。輕喜劇風格亦難得展現了她幽默的一面。

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Sexuality is fluid and flexible: Norah, Peter's nominal fiancée, is easily seduced by Leo; Helen enjoys heterosexual sex but prefers being with women because they're more considerate; Leo lives for most of her life as a lesbian, fearing heterosexuality, and then falls in love with a man.  
姐姐从小就离家出走，父母经常吵架，妹妹长大后离家出走去找姐姐，姐姐在船上生活，成为了作家，有自己的很多朋友，女伴Helen

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## 书评

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