

Contents

About the Author	
Preface	
Chronology	
1. Legend and Life	13
2. A Question of Faith	29
3. This Mortal Life	41
4. Versions of Love	59
5. The Struggle for Sanity	77
6. The Secret and Spectacle of Nature	94
7. The Prose of a Poet	125
8. A Lasting Influence	143
Notes and References	152
Selected Bibliography	157
Index	164

Index

- After Great Pain* (Cody), 42
 Aiken, Conrad, 143
 Aligheri, Dante, 148
Alison's House (Glaspell), 17
 Allegory, 63, 64, 66
 "American Poets of Today" (Lowell), 145-46
 Amherst College, 22-23, 25; and Emily Dickinson, 23
 Amherst, Mass., 21-23, 69
 Anderson, Charles R., 39, 56, 79, 88, 90, 99, 121
Atlantic Monthly, 136, 140
 Ballad, 53
 Beecher, Henry Ward, 134
 Benet, Laura, 20-21
 Bianchi, Martha Dickinson, 14
 Bingham, Millicent Todd, 42, 78
 Blake, William, 146
 Bogan, Louise, 143, 147, 148
 Boltwood, Mrs. Lucius, 134
 Bowdoin, Elbridge, 27
 Bowles, Samuel, 39, 60-63, 127, 134, 138
 Brinnin, John Malcolm, 79
 Browning, Elizabeth Barrett, 147
 Bryant, William Cullen, 94
 Calvinism, 21-22, 41
 Capps, Jack L., 97
 Chase, Richard, 90, 102, 127
 Child, Lydia, 26
 Ciardi, John, 143
Circles (Emerson), 37
 Cody, John, 42, 80-82, 93
 Coleridge, Samuel Taylor, 146
Come Slowly Eden (Benet), 20-21
Come Slowly Eden (Rosten), 19-20
 Copland, Aaron, 143
 Corso, Gregory, 143, 144
 Crane, Hart, 143, 144
Critical Fable, A (Lowell), 146
 164
 Cunningham, J. V., 143
 Death, poems about, 43-58
 Dickinson, Austin, 24
 Dickinson, Edward, 23-24, 59; influence upon Emily, 24
 Dickinson, Emily, appreciation for nature, 108-24; attitudes toward nature, 94, 95, 98-108; death wish, 42; described by Higginson, 141-42; early "masters," 26-27; education, 28; ideas concerning death, 41-42; ideas concerning marriage, 75, 76; in love, 59-63; intellectual independence, 36, 100; interest in death, 22; interest in letter-writing, 125-28; mental breakdown, 77-78; mental illness, 82; mental therapy self-applied, 92-93; "New England Nun," 13-14; poetry as an outgrowth of psychological trauma, 81-82, 92-93; popular images of, 13-21, 94; psychological condition, 77-82; psychosexual development, 81; relationship with father, 24, 81; relationship with mother, 24, 81; religious crisis, 28-31; religious doubt, 31-32; upbringing, 27-28; withdrawal from society, 78-79
 WORKS—LETTERS: addressed to
 Bowles, Samuel, 131
 Chickering, Joseph K., 130-31
 Dickinson, Ned, 131
 Dickinson, Susan Gilbert, 31, 133-34
 Dwight, Edward S., 130
 Hale, Edward Everett, 27
 Higginson, Col. Thomas W., 24, 42, 125, 135, 136-37, 138-39, 140, 141
 Holland, Mrs. J. G., 128, 129
 Humphrey, Jane, 30
 Loomis, Mr. and Mrs. E. J., 127
 Lord, Judge Otis P., 40, 59-60
 "Master," 62-63

- Norcross, Louise and Frances, 130, 131-33
 Root, Abiah, 26, 28, 29, 30, 31
 Tuckerman, Mrs. Edward, 131
- WORKS—POETRY:
- “A Bee his burnished Carriage,” 63-64, 120
 “A Bird came down the Walk,” 104-106
 “A Clock stopped,” 47-49
 “A Drop fell on the Apple Tree,” 117
 “A great Hope fell,” 84-85
 “A Lady red amid the Hill,” 111
 “A Light exists in Spring,” 111-12, 116
 “A little Madness in the Spring,” 98-99
 “A narrow fellow in the grass,” 61, 122-23
 “A Route of Evanescence,” 120-21
 “A slash of Blue,” 108
 “A something in a summer’s Day,” 112
 “After great pain, a formal feeling comes,” 93
 “Although I put away his life,” 72
 “An altered look about the hills,” 111
 “Apparently with no surprise,” 56, 102-103
 “As imperceptibly as Grief,” 113
 “As One does Sickness over,” 93
 “Because I could not stop for Death,” 54-57
 “Bees are Black, with Gilt Surcingle,” 119
 “Blazing in gold and quenching in purple,” 61, 110
 “Color—Caste—Denomination,” 52
 “Crumbling is not an instant’s Act,” 83
 “Death is the supple Suitor,” 57-58
 “Dew—is the Freshet in the Grass,” 100
 “Did the Harebell loose her girdle,” 64, 120
 “Dust is the only Secret,” 52
 “Experiment escorts us last,” 99
 “‘Faith’ is a fine invention,” 100
 “Forever at his side to walk,” 72
 “From Blank to Blank,” 93
 “Further in Summer than the Birds,” 123-24
 “Going to Heaven,” 33-34
 “Going—to—Her,” 125
 “Going to Him! Happy letter,” 125
 “Here, where the Daisies fit my Head,” 43
 “His Feet are shod with Gauze,” 120
 “His little Hearse like Figure,” 120
 “How many times these low feet staggered,” 46-47
 “How the old Mountains drip with Sunset,” 109
 “I breathed enough to take the trick,” 92
 “I cannot live with You,” 69-70
 “I cannot meet the Spring unmoved,” 110
 “I dreaded that first Robin, so,” 103-104
 “I felt a Funeral, in my brain,” 90-92
 “I got so I could take his name,” 70-72
 “I heard a Fly buzz—when I died,” 49-50
 “I know that He exists,” 32-33
 “I like a look of Agony,” 43
 “I read my sentence—steadily,” 42
 “I saw no Way—The Heavens were stitched,” 84
 “I sing to use the Waiting,” 42
 “I started Early—took my Dog,” 106-108
 “I taste a liquor never brewed,” 61, 94
 “I tie my Hat—I crease my Shawl,” 93
 “If anybody’s friend be dead,” 43
 “If I may have it, when it’s dead,” 45
 “If you were coming in the Fall,” 67-68
 Letters, 125-42; methods of writing, 126-27, 129-30; relationship with poetry, 128-34; to Thomas W. Higginson, 134-42
Letters from New York (Child), 26
Life and Letters of Emily Dickinson, The (Bianchi), 14
Life and Mind of Emily Dickinson, The (Taggard), 15
 Lindberg-Seyersted, Brita, 52, 79-80, 149
 Lord, Judge Otis P., 59-60, 134

- "I'll tell you how the Sun rose," 110, 136
- "I'm ceded—I've stopped being Their's," 72-73
- "I'm 'wife'—I've finished that," 73-75
- "In Winter in my Room," 64-66
- "It knew no lapse, nor Diminution," 83
- "It knew no Medicine," 86
- "It sifts from Leaden Sieves," 115
- "It was not Death, for I stood up," 88-90
- "It would never be Common—more—I said," 87-88
- "It's coming—the postponeless Creature," 53
- "I've dropped my Brain—My Soul is numb," 85
- "I've seen a Dying Eye," 43
- "Like Brooms of Steel," 115
- "Like Trains of Cars on Tracks of Plush," 120
- "'Nature' is what we see," 97-98
- "New feet within my garden go," 111
- "No Brigadier throughout the Year," 120
- "Not any higher stands the Grave," 53
- "Of all the Sounds despatched Abroad," 137
- "Of course—I prayed," 37
- "Of Silken Speech and Specious Shoe," 120
- "Of Tribulation these are they," 139
- "On such a night, or such a night," 43
- "One dignity delays for all," 53
- "One of the ones that Midas touched," 120
- "Pink—small—and punctual," 118-19
- "Promise this—When You be Dying," 45
- "Safe in their Alabaster Chambers," 37-40, 61, 136
- "She died—*this* was the way she died," 43
- "She lay as if at play," 43-44
- "She rose to His Requirement," 75-76
- "She sweeps with many-colored Brooms," 109
- "Sic transit gloria mundi," 61
- "Some keep the Sabbath going to Church," 139
- "Some, too fragile for winter winds," 43
- "South Winds jostle them," 137
- "Spring is the Period," 111
- "Success is counted sweetest," 139-40
- "The Bible is an antique Volume," 36
- "The first Day's Night had come," 82
- "The Frost of Death was on the Pane," 53-54
- "The Gentian weaves her fringes," 112-13
- "The last Night that She lived," 51-52
- "The morns are meeker than they were," 113-14
- "The Murmur of a Bee," 95-96
- "The nearest Dream recedes unrealized," 136
- "The Rat is the concisest Tenant," 121-22
- "The Robin is a Gabriel," 120
- "The Skies can't keep their secret," 97
- "The Way I read a Letter's—this," 125-26
- "The Way to know the Bobolink," 120
- "The Wind begun to knead the Grass," 117
- "The World—feels dusty," 44
- "The World stands—solemnner—to me," 72
- "Their Height in Heaven comforts not," 36-37
- "There came a Day at Summer's full," 68-69, 137
- "There came a Wind like a Bugle," 117-18
- "There is a Languor of the Life," 86-87
- "There is a pain—so utter," 93
- "There's a certain Slant of light," 116
- "There's been a Death, in the Opposite House," 50
- "These are the days when Birds come back," 114-15
- "These—saw Visions," 47
- "This is my letter to the World," 125

- "This that would greet—an hour ago," 47
 "This World is not Conclusion," 34–35
 "Those—dying then," 33
 "'Tis so appalling—it exhilarates," 45–46
 "'Twas the old—road—through pain," 43
 "Wait till the Majesty of Death," 53
 "We play at Paste," 136
 "What mystery pervades a well," 100–102
 "What would I give to see his face," 66–67
 "Whole Gulfs—of Red, and Fleets—of Red," 109
 "Within my Garden, rides a Bird," 120
 "Your Riches taught me poverty," 139
 Dickinson, Emily Norcross, 24
 Dickinson, Gilbert, 133
 Dickinson, Lavinia, 15, 19, 25, 60
 Dickinson, Susan Gilbert, 22, 24–25
 Dix, Dorothea Lynde, 92
 Domenichino, 109
 Doolittle, Hilda, 146

 "E." (Rich), 144–45
Eastward in Eden (Gardner), 17–19
 Edwards, Jonathan, 22
 Einstein, Albert, 148
 Eliot, T.S., 148, 150
 Emerson, Ralph Waldo, 94, 96, 97, 98; influence of, 26, 37
Emily (Jenkins), 20
 "Emily Dickinson The Trouble With You Is—" (Corso), 144
 "Emily Dickinson and Twentieth-Century Poetry of Sensibility" (Wilson), 150
Emily Dickinson, Friend and Neighbor (Jenkins), 16, 20
Emily Dickinson: The Human Background of Her Poetry (Pollitt), 15
Emily Dickinson: Three Views (MacLeish, Bogan, Wilbur), 147, 148
Emily Dickinson's Home (Bingham), 42, 78

Emily Dickinson's Reading: 1836–1886 (Capps), 97
 Emmons, Henry, 27
 Eternity, 32, 33, 37–40, 48, 58

 Fain, John Tyree, 128
 Faith versus disbelief, 31–40
 Fletcher, John Gould, 146
 Fowler, Emily, 134
 French Symbolists, 150
 Freud, Sigmund, 42, 64, 81, 148

 Gardner, Dorothy, 17–19
 Gelpi, Albert J., 37, 149
 Glaspell, Susan, 17, 19
 Glenn, Eunice, 55
 Gould, George H., 15, 27, 138
 Graham, Martha, 143
 Griffith, Clark, 35, 42, 79, 80–81, 88–89, 90, 106

 Higgins, David, 126, 129
 Higginson, Col. Thomas W., 19, 24, 127, 135–42, 143
 Hindus, Milton, 128
 Hogue, Caroline, 50
 Holland, Sophia, 41
 Holland, Josiah G., 134, 138
 Humphrey, Jane, 25
 Humphrey, Leonard, 26, 41
 Hunt, Maj. Edward B., 15, 138

 "I" voice of the poet, 79–80
 Imagism, 145–47, 150
 "Imagism Past and Present" (Lowell), 146
 Immortality, 32, 33, 49–50, 57
 Influence, on modern age, 143–51; on modern poetry, 148–50

 Jackson, Helen Hunt, 15, 134
 Jenkins, Mac Gregor, 16, 20
 Johnson, Thomas H., 78, 90, 143

Leaves of Grass (Whitman), 135
 "Letter to a Young Contributor" (Higginson), 135–36

- Love, poems about, 63-76
 Lowell, Amy, 143, 145-47
 Lowell, James Russell, 146
 Lyon, Mary, 28
- MacLeish, Archibald, 143, 147, 148
 Mallarmé, Stéphane, 148
 Marriage, poems about, 72-76
 "Master" letters, 62-63
 Miller, Ruth, 137-38
 Mitchell, Donald Grant, 43
 Modernity, Dickinson's 35, 150-51
 Mt. Holyoke Seminary, 26, 28, 29
 "Myth of Emily," 14
- Nature* (Emerson), 96
 Nature, poems about, 94-124
 "New Manner in Modern Poetry, The"
 (Lowell), 145
 Newton, Benjamin F., 26-27, 41, 138
 Norcross, Frances and Louise, 134
- Padgett, Ron, 143
 Pathetic fallacy, 103
 Personifications of death, 52-58
 Pickard, John B., 88, 90
 Poe, Edgar Allan, 145
Poems by Emily Dickinson (Todd and
 Higginson), 143
 Pollitt, Josephine, 15
 Porter, David T., 79
 Pound, Ezra, 146, 148, 150
 Psychological breakdown, poems about,
 77, 79, 82-92
 Psychology, poems concerned with, 77,
 82-93
- Ransom, John Crowe, 78, 143
 Religion, poems about, 32-40
 Reni, Guido, 109
 Rich, Adrienne, 143, 144
 Rimbaud, Arthur, 148
 Root, Abiah, 25
 Rorem, Ned, 143
 Rosten, Norman, 19-20
- St. John of the Cross, 148
 Salvation, 32, 33, 36-37
 Sanborn, Franklin B., 134
- Sandburg, Carl, 143
 Sappho, 147
Scribner's Monthly Magazine, 134
 Shakespeare, 37
 Shapiro, Karl, 143
 Sherwood, William R., 80, 90
 Sigourney, Lydia, 43
Single Hound, The (Bianchi), 14
 "Sisters, The" (Lowell), 147
 Spofford, Harriet Prescott, 136
Springfield Republican, The, 25, 39, 61,
 134
 Stoddard, Solomon, 21
- Taggard, Genevieve, 15
 Tate, Allen, 29, 31, 78, 143
 Theocritus, 146
This Was a Poet (Whicher), 21
 Thomson, James, 94
 Titian, 109
 "To Emily Dickinson" (Crane), 144
 Todd, Mabel Loomis, 134, 142, 143
 Transcendentalism, 95-98
- Van Doren, Mark, 143
Voice of the Poet, The (Lindberg-
 Seyersted), 79-80
- Wadsworth, Rev. Charles, 17-19, 20,
 60-61, 63, 134, 138
 Waggoner, Hyatt, 37
 Ward, Theodora, 78, 80
 Warren, Austin, 37
 Wells, Anna Mary, 77
 Wells, Henry W., 80, 131
What's O'Clock (Lowell), 147
 Whicher, George Frisbie, 18-19, 21, 23,
 24, 129
 Whitman, Walt, 102, 135, 136, 145
 Whitney, Maria, 134
 Wilbur, Richard, 143, 147, 148
 Willis, N. P., 43
 Wilson, Suzanne M., 150
 Winters, Yvor, 143
 Wood, Abby, 25
 Wordsworth, William, 94
- Yeats, William Butler, 148