



## Recounting the life of a woman who lived in the shadow of a great man

The case of Drouet and Hugo

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Author: Naugrette (Florence)

Abstract: Writing the biography of Juliette Drouet, taking as its main source the 22,000 letters she addressed to Hugo over fifty years, which form a rich personal diary, is to recount the story of a woman prepared to abandon her career to devote herself to a genius, the adventure of an adulterous couple at first stigmatized but ultimately acknowledged, and the history of a tumultuous century, that of Romanticism, revolutions, and the march toward the Republic. What challenges does this trifecta present to the biographer and what scruples must they contend with?

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