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WORLD ENGLISH

THREE LIVES

GERTRUDE STEIN

- One of Stein's earliest and most accessible works.
- A thought-provoking investigation of the lives of working-class women trapped by their situation.
- The ideal starting point to discover this unjustly neglected writer.
- Contains extra material on the fascinating life of one of the twentieth century's greatest literary names.

'You see that Anna led an arduous and troubled life... Her face was worn, her cheeks were thin, her mouth drawn and firm, and her light blue eyes were very bright. Sometimes they were full of lightning and sometimes full of humour, but they were always sharp and clear.'

Under the grey, industrial skies of Bridgepoint (a thinly veiled Baltimore), three women – Anna, Melanctha and Lena – live out their lives, toiling miserably. With a heavy literary nod to Gustave Flaubert's *Three Tales*, Stein's *Three Lives*, separated into three distinct parts, paints a powerful portrait of women trapped in work.

An astonishing work that toys with conventions from both literature and art, *Three Lives* stands as a monument in Modernism and experimental literature, and comes from the pen of a writer whose intelligence and compassion bleeds from every page.

'Gertrude Stein changed the way I thought about writing autobiography because she so magnificently investigates the art and artifice of the genre.'

DEBORAH LEVY



ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Gertrude Stein (1874–1946) was an American writer, poet and playwright. She moved to France in 1903, where she lived with her partner Alice B. Toklas and set up a famous literary salon frequented by luminaries including Matisse, Picasso, F. Scott Fitzgerald and Hemingway. She is best known today for her memoir, *The Autobiography of Alice B. Toklas*, and for her avant-garde novels *Q.E.D.*, *Fernhurst*, *Three Lives* and *Tender Buttons*.

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