

FEMINISTS ASSAULT EUDORA WELTY

DISAGREEMENT WITH FEMINISTS

According to Eudora Welty, “All that talk of women’s lib doesn’t apply at all to women writers. We’ve always been able to do what we’ve wished. I couldn’t feel less deprived as a woman to be writing.” Carol Ann Johnston, *Eudora Welty: A Study of the Short Fiction* (1997): “One despairing comment about the feminist movement delayed feminist readings of her work for 20 or 30 years”; “When asked in a 1970 survey what she thought of ‘women’s liberation,’ Welty gave a one-word answer: ‘Noisiness’”; “Welty does not want her work to be categorized with any political agenda, specifically a feminist agenda”; [The same is true of all the best women writers.] “A number of American feminist critics have begun to join French theorists in asserting that language is a patriarchal institution.” Welty is politically incorrect in her portrayal of some women characters, as in “Petrified Man.” The rise of radical Feminism appalled her: “We are like flies with our feet not in honey but in venom. It’s not love that is the gluey emotion; it’s hate... This is a devastating emotion. It could kill us.”