



The Limits of Love

The Lives of D. H. Lawrence and Frieda von Richthofen

MICHAEL SQUIRES

The Limits of Love: The Lives of D. H. Lawrence and Frieda von Richthofen provides a candid look at two illustrious people who tested the capacity—and the limits—of marriage. The Lawrences come alive not as simple quarreling travelers, nor as blissful domestic partners, but as complex personalities who experimented with marriage to see if it would fulfill their needs. Their antagonisms and their sexual experiences informed Lawrence’s fearless novels *The Rainbow* and *Women in Love*. Both works also tested the boundaries of public taste and faced harsh receptions.

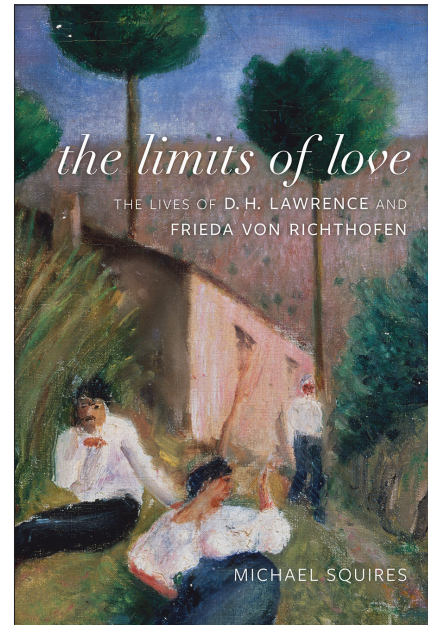
The cost of the Lawrences’ strong but unstable marriage was high. Despite periods of happiness and peace, angry clashes meant separations and uneasy agreements to repair the marital intimacy when it cracked. Fractures of 1916, 1919, 1923, and 1926 healed slowly and with difficulty. In Lawrence’s most calculated and famous work, *Lady Chatterley’s Lover*, he successfully coded their marital stress and, full of rage, fused two stories of failed marriages.

Drawing on many unpublished and recently discovered letters, *The Limits of Love* offers readers a detailed reconstruction of two complicated lives, written with narrative speed and a forceful style, filled with vivid interpretations of Lawrence’s work, and conveying deep sympathy for people living outside established norms. This new dual biography, based on years of research by Michael Squires, captures the essence of Lawrence and Frieda, making the couple real, alive, and accessible.

MICHAEL SQUIRES, professor emeritus of English at Virginia Tech, is the author or editor of eight books related to D. H. Lawrence, including the Cambridge Edition of *Lady Chatterley’s Lover*.

PRAISE FOR *THE LIMITS OF LOVE*

“Like a masterful novelist, Michael Squires deftly dramatizes the narrative arc of Frieda and Lawrence; and like an excellent researcher, he is in command of his sources, choosing telling details that make the couple’s relationship both intense and human. With lucid prose and brilliant insights, this portrait is a model of the art of literary biography.”—Paul Sorrentino, author of *Stephen Crane: A Life of Fire*



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