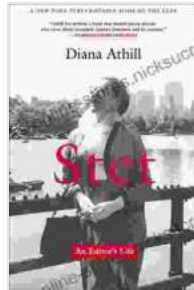


# Stet: An Editor's Life by Diana Athill - A Comprehensive Review and Analysis



## Stet: An Editor's Life by Diana Athill

★★★★☆ 4.4 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 553 KB

Text-to-Speech : Enabled

Screen Reader : Supported

Enhanced typesetting : Enabled

Word Wise : Enabled

Print length : 260 pages

Lending : Enabled



In the annals of publishing history, the name Diana Athill stands tall as a legendary figure. As an editor, she possessed an uncanny ability to nurture and guide some of the most celebrated writers of the 20th century, including Philip Roth, John Updike, Jean Rhys, and Nadine Gordimer. In her memoir, *Stet: An Editor's Life*, Athill offers a candid and deeply personal account of her remarkable career.

## Athill's Early Life and Career

Diana Athill was born in 1917 in Norfolk, England. Her father was a clergyman, and her mother came from a wealthy family. Athill's early education was unconventional. Instead of attending a traditional school, she was tutored at home by her governess. This gave her the freedom to pursue her intellectual interests, and she developed a lifelong love of literature.

In 1939, Athill moved to London to work as a secretary. However, her true calling lay elsewhere. In 1946, she joined the publishing house of André Deutsch as an assistant editor. It was here that she began to hone her skills as an editor, working with authors such as V.S. Naipaul, Iris Murdoch, and Anthony Burgess.

## **Athill's Approach to Editing**

Athill's approach to editing was unique and highly effective. She believed that an editor's primary role was to support and nurture the author's vision. She avoided imposing her own ideas on the text and instead focused on helping the author to develop their own voice and style.

Athill was known for her meticulous attention to detail. She would carefully read each manuscript, making notes on everything from grammar and punctuation to plot and character development. She was always respectful of the author's intent, but she was also willing to offer constructive criticism when necessary.

## **Athill's Legacy**

Diana Athill retired from editing in 1994. However, her legacy continues to inspire editors and writers around the world. Her memoir, *Stet: An Editor's Life*, has become a classic in the publishing industry. It is a testament to her extraordinary life and career, and it offers invaluable insights into the art and craft of editing.

Athill passed away in 2019 at the age of 101. She left behind a rich literary legacy that will continue to influence generations to come. Her work as an editor helped to shape the literary landscape of the 20th century, and her

memoir provides a timeless guide to the challenges and rewards of the editing profession.

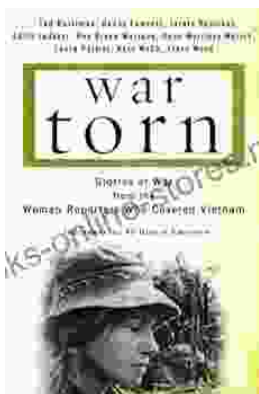
*Stet: An Editor's Life* is a must-read for anyone interested in the world of publishing and literature. It is a fascinating and inspiring account of Diana Athill's life and career, and it offers invaluable insights into the art and craft of editing. Athill's legacy as an editor and a mentor continues to inspire and guide editors and writers around the world.



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