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Demonic Dreamer: Marie Corelli; 23. Authors at Play: Nat Gould Leads

the Field; IV. WRITERS AND THE PUBLIC: PENMEN AS PUNDITS; 24. The

Campaign Trail; 25. Public Service and Party Politics; 26. Pens at War; 27. Pricking Censorship

28. Theology versus Sociology and PsychologyBibliography; Index of Book, Essay, Pamphlet, Play, Poem and Short Story Titles; A; B; C; D; E; F; G; H; I; J; K; L; M; N; O; P; Q; R; S; T; U; V; W; Y; Z; General Index; A; B; C; D; E; F; G; H; I; J; K; L; M; N; O; P; Q; R; S; T; U; V; W; X; Y; Z

Sommario/riassunto

Writers, Readers, and Reputations explores the literary world in which the modern best-seller first emerged. Writers were promoted as stars and celebrities, advertising both products and themselves. Philip Waller's detailed and entertaining study is a collective biography of literary figures, some forgotten, some enduring, over half a century. -; Charles Dickens died in 1870, the same year in which universal elementary education was introduced. During the following generation a mass reading public emerged, and the term 'best-seller' was coined. In new and cheap editions Dickens's stories sold