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Sommario/riassunto

'Imagining Women Readers' reassesses the cultural significance of women's reading in the period 1789-1820. While much attention has been paid to the moral panic provoked by novel-reading during this period, this study offers a more progressive and enabling narrative. From the turbulent years following the French Revolution to the fiction of Jane Austen, 'Imagining Women Readers' charts the rise of a self-regulating reader, who possesses both moral and cultural authority.