



# Apology for the Woman Writing and Other Works (The Other Voice in Early Modern Europe)

*Marie le Jars de Gournay*

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During her lifetime, the gifted writer Marie le Jars de Gournay (1565-1645) was celebrated as one of the "seventy most famous women of all time" in Jean de la Forge's *Circle of Learned Women* (1663). The adopted daughter of Montaigne, as well as his editor, Gournay was a major literary force and a pioneering feminist voice during a tumultuous period in France.

This volume presents translations of four of Gournay's works that address feminist issues. Two of these appear here in English for the first time—*The Promenade of Monsieur de Montaigne* and *The Apology for the Woman Writing*. One of the first modern psychological novels, the best-selling *Promenade* was also the first to explore female sexual feeling. With the autobiographical *Apology*, Gournay defended every aspect of her life, from her moral conduct to her household management. The book also includes Gournay's last revisions (1641) of her two best-known feminist treatises, *The Equality of Men and Women* and *The Ladies' Complaint*. The editors provide a general overview of Gournay's career, as well as individual introductions and extensive annotations for each work.

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