This Companion provides new ways of reading a wide range of influential women’s poetry. Leading international scholars offer insights on a century of writers, drawing out the special function of poetry and the poets’ use of language, whether concerned with the relationship between verbal and visual art, experimental poetics, war, landscape, history, cultural identity or ‘confessional’ lyrics. Collectively, the chapters cover established and less familiar poets, from Edith Sitwell and Mina Loy, through Stevie Smith, Sylvia Plath and Elizabeth Jennings to Anne Stevenson, Eavan Boland and Jo Shapcott. They include poets at the forefront of poetry trends, such as Liz Lochhead, Jackie Kay, Patience Agbabi, Caroline Bergvall, Medbh McGuckian and Carol Ann Duffy.

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