



## A. S. Byatt and Toril Moi discuss realism, fairy stories, and the predicament of being a "woman writer"



In a wide ranging conversation with Toril Moi and over 200 rapt audience members at the National Humanities Center on October 16th, Dame A. S. Byatt discussed her approach to writing, the way she interweaves historical and imaginative details, and her perspective on women's literature and the predicament of being a "woman writer."

Byatt's appearance at the National Humanities Center as a Meymandi distinguished visitor coincides with the release of *The Children's Book* in the United States -- only days after it was included on the shortlist for the Man Booker Prize, which she won in 1990 for *Possession*. In her new novel, Byatt continues to explore the artistic and intellectual life of characters drawn from an earlier era, in this instance late nineteenth-and early twentieth century England during the final years of Queen Victoria's reign through the impending nightmare of the first World War.

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### UPCOMING

**October 29-30** - "Politics and the Long Romantic Period" Conference

**November 5** - Public lecture on Thomas Jefferson in Black Thought by Fellow Mia Bay (Rutgers University)

**December 10** - Public lecture on parenting in 19th century Britain

