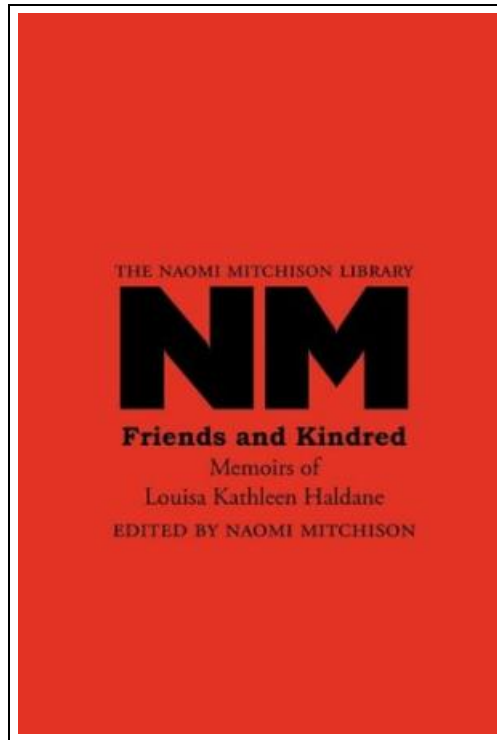


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Reviews

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(Prof. Flo Cruickshank DDS)

FRIENDS AND KINDRED: MEMOIRS OF LOUISA KATHLEEN HALDANE (PAPERBACK)



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Zeticula Ltd, United Kingdom, 2009. Paperback. Condition: New. New.. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.Louisa Maya Haldane was the widow of physiologist John Scott Haldane, and the mother of J. B. S. Haldane and Naomi Mitchison. In these memoirs she gives a remarkably detailed account of the life of the well-to-do in the second half of the nineteenth century - in Ireland, Scotland and the Continental spas as well as in England - as seen through the eyes of a growing girl and an independently-minded young woman. The story continues up to the time of the First World War, with chapters focusing on particular topics: her education, her husband s early career, the position of servants in town and country, a young lady s wardrobe. We are reminded graphically of the high feeling that ran in the country during the Boer War, Queen Victoria s Jubilees and her funeral, all of which are still vivid in Mrs Haldane s memory. This fascinating material is informed and enlivened by a certain dry wit, nowhere more telling than in personal anecdote: particularly in the account of her father s experiences when, during a sea voyage for his health - always precarious through excessive perusal of medical literature - he unexpectedly found himself obliged to take over the duties of British Consul in Samoa. The author s objective irony, together with her remarkably clear and detailed memory for people and places, helps to re-create an ambience and moral climate of a now remote era.



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