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## Raymond Asquith: Life and Letters (The Century lives letters)

*John Jolliffe*

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#4105539 in Books 1987-05Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 #File Name: 0712614915311 pages | File size: 39.Mb

**John Jolliffe : Raymond Asquith: Life and Letters (The Century lives letters)** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Raymond Asquith: Life and Letters (The Century lives letters):

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. The voice of an EdwardianBy Girl Friday ReaderRaymond Asquith lived in the middle of Edwardian political and social life, as both the son of the Prime Minister and as one of the most brilliant minds of his generation. When he was killed in action on the Somme in late 1916, his death marked the end of a truly fascinating man whose voice remains strong and influential nearly one hundred years later. This book excerpts the letters he wrote to his family and friends from his first years at Balliol College to his last days in France, which shows the life of a typical and atypical young man of the late 1890s and 1900s. We are privy to his witty asides and opinions about people now lionized in history, but were his colleagues or friends, and his passionate courtship of Katharine Horner. The best and most harrowing part of the book deals with his time in the war, and his curious mixture of self-deprecation and anxiety are heart-breaking to read, particularly when the end of his life looms near. Nevertheless, this is a vital document for understand Asquith and the forces which shaped and molded him.

Eldest son of the Prime Minister, with an outstanding academic record at Oxford, Raymond Asquith devoted his great talents to friendship, preferring conversation and literature to the struggle for worldly success. In this collection, edited by his grandson, there are touching and revealing letters to friends as diverse as Winston Churchill and Lady Diana Cooper, love letters to his wife, Katherine, as well as frank and witty anecdotes about many of the major social figures

and politicians of the day. His letters from the Western Front, before his death on the Somme in 1916, are as memorable as anything in the painfully emotive literature of the period.

"Witty, informed, acid and deliciously frank about his famous contemporaries." The Times