

Negative Capability

A Diary of Surviving

Michèle Roberts



SANDSTONE PRESS

ABOUT THIS BOOK

Following a series of devastating rejections, Michèle Roberts began keeping an account of her life in the hope it might help mend her shattered sense of self. In this intimate and wryly honest journal she reflects on cities and countryside, loss and love, food, friendships, sisterhood, pleasure and memories, her abiding relationship with France and with literature. Over the course of a year a new pattern of being develops, until, finally, she finds a better relationship between inner and outer worlds.

PRAISE FOR NEGATIVE CAPABILITY

'How truly she is a writer shows in her lush sensuous prose, as moment-by-moment pleasure triumphs over fear of the future.'

Hilary Mantel, *The Guardian*

'A terrific, complex writer with a natural tone, a tone of her own, and *Negative Capability* is among the best of her books. Anybody interested in writing - and surviving it - or personhood - and mastering it - should stop what they're doing right now and read it.'

Andrew O'Hagan

'Brave, naked, defiant and exquisitely written.'

Julie Myerson, *The Spectator*

'There is much to savour in this most valuable and wondrous diary, not least the female narrator's free and radical thoughts about success, failure, ageing, politics, the rituals of cooking, the vicissitudes of love, companionship and connection outside the nuclear family. Michele Roberts is a writer who has always excelled at embodying the joy of female intellectual and earthly appetites.'

Deborah Levy

'A memoir that perfectly captures the writer's life and how your identity is bound up in your work. For sustenance and sheer sensual pleasure, it's a book I'll return to again and again.'

Karen Campbell, author of *The Sound of the Hours*

'A wonderful writer: one in possession of immense feeling.'

Rachel Cooke, *The Observer*

'Raw and glittering... Superb.'

Christina Patterson, *The Sunday Times*

'Roberts writes with wit and honesty.'

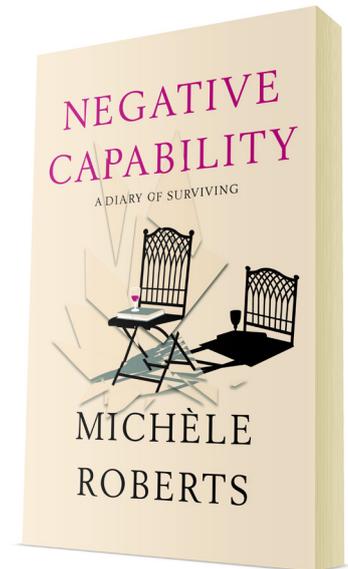
The Independent

'Funny, wise and all-embracing.'

Carmen Callil

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Half-English and half-French, Michèle Roberts lives in London and in the Mayenne, France. She is Emeritus Professor of Creative Writing at the University of East Anglia, a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature and a Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et Lettres.



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