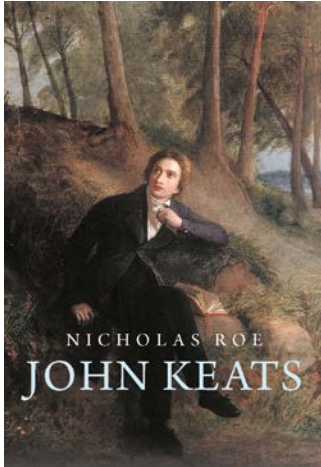


ADVANCE UNCORRECTED PAGE PROOF

For publication on 16th October 2012 at £25.00

All publicity enquiries to Heather Nathan at Yale:

(T) 020 7079 4900 (E) heather.nathan@yaleup.co.uk



JOHN KEATS

A New Life

Nicholas Roe

This landmark biography of celebrated Romantic poet John Keats explodes entrenched conceptions of him as a delicate, overly sensitive, tragic figure. Instead, Nicholas Roe reveals the real flesh-and-blood poet: a passionate man driven by ambition but prey to doubt, suspicion, and jealousy; sure of his vocation while bitterly resentful of the obstacles that blighted his career; devoured by sexual desire and frustration; and in thrall to alcohol and opium. Through unparalleled original research, Roe arrives at a fascinating reassessment of Keats's entire life, from his early years at Keates's Livery Stables through his harrowing battle with tuberculosis and death at the age of 25. Focusing on crucial turning points, Roe finds in the locations of Keats's poems new keys to the nature of his imaginative quest.

Roe is the first biographer to provide a full and fresh account of Keats's childhood in the City of London and how it shaped the would-be poet. The mysterious early death of Keats's father, his mother's too-swift remarriage, living in the shadow of the notorious madhouse Bedlam - all these affected Keats far more than has been previously understood. The author also sheds light on Keats's doomed passion for Fanny Brawne, his circle of brilliant friends, hitherto unknown City relatives, and much more. Filled with revelations and daring to ask new questions, Roe's *John Keats: A New Life* offers a fresh and exciting new perspective on one of the most beloved poets of the English language.



NICHOLAS ROE is Professor of English Literature at the University of St. Andrews, a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh and Chair of the Keats Foundation, Keats House, Hampstead. He is the author of numerous biographical and critical works on writers of the Romantic Period, including the acclaimed biography *Fiery Heart: The First Life of Leigh Hunt*.