

Margaret Skinnider, Irish Times, May 2020

The extraordinary life of Irish revolutionary Margaret Skinnider

Brief reviews of Margaret Skinnider, by Mary McAuliffe; *Unspeakable*, by Harriet Shawcross; *The Book of Longings*, by Sue Monk Kidd; *The Magicians*, by Marcus Chown; *Terrorists, Anarchists and Republicans*, by Richard Whatmore; and *Virgin and Child*, by Maggie Hamond

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Margaret Skinnider was a suffragette and a nationalist prepared to use force to achieve Irish independence

Margaret Skinnider

By Mary McAuliffe

UCD Press, €17

Margaret Skinnider features briefly in Irish history books as the woman who was wounded commanding a military action during the Easter 1916 Rising. But Skinnider was much more than this: a suffragette, a socialist, a trade union activist, and a nationalist prepared to use force to achieve Irish independence. Mary McAuliffe's meticulously researched biography seeks to shed light on a complex woman living an extraordinary life.

As an assistant professor in gender studies at University College Dublin, Dr McAuliffe has written extensively on the lives, times, and impacts of female figures in the Easter Rising and the independence movement in Ireland. Woven through her fascinating and accessible narrative of Skinnider is a call to recognise the fundamental importance of women's stories within history, and a striving effort to speak back into a cultural and historical silence. – **Becky Long**