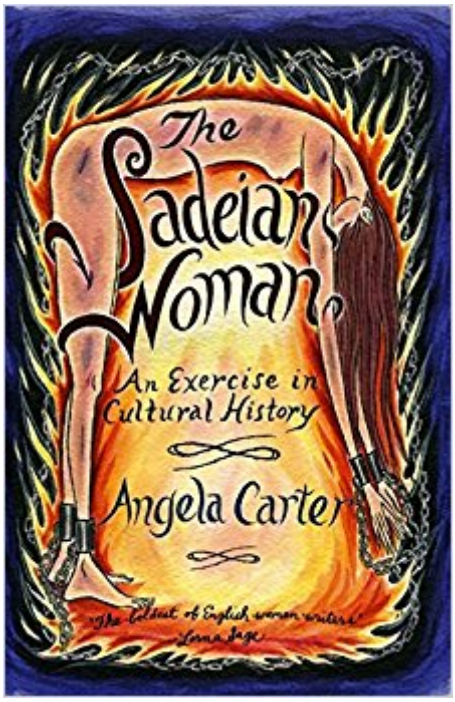
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The Sadeian Woman (Virago Modern Classics)



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Synopsis

Sexuality is power' - so says the Marquis de Sade, philosopher and pornographer extraordinaire. His virtuous Justine keeps to the rules laid down by men, her reward rape and humiliation; his Juliette, Justine's triumphantly monstrous antithesis, viciously exploits her sexuality. In a world where all tenderness is false, all beds are minefields.But now Sade has met his match. With invention and genius, Angela Carter takes on these outrageous figments of his extreme imagination, and transforms them into symbols of our time - the Hollywood sex goddesses, mothers and daughters, pornography, even the sacred shrines of sex and marriage lie devastatingly exposed before our eyes. Angela Carter delves into the viscera of our distorted sexuality and reveals a dazzling vision of love which admits neither of conqueror nor of conquered.

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Customer Reviews

"Few women would feel inclined to treat the Marquis de Sade with affectionate familiarity. But Angela Carter is neither ordinary nor timid. The tone is one of intellectual relish Ã¢â ¬Â¦ rational Ã¢â ¬Â¦ refined Ã¢â ¬Â¦ witty"Ã Â Ã¢â ¬â •New Statesman"The boldest of English women writers."Ã Â Ã¢â ¬â •Lorna Sage

"Sexuality is power," wrote the Marquis de Sade. His virtuous Justine kept to the rules laid down by men, her reward rape and humiliation; his Juliette, Justine's triumphantly monstrous antithesis,

viciously exploited her sexuality. This is a world where all tenderness is false, and all beds are minefields. But now Sade has met his match. With invention and genius, celebrated novelist Angela Carter takes on these figments of his extreme imagination and transforms them into symbols of our time: the Hollywood sex goddesses, mothers and daughters, pornography, even the sacred shrines of sex and marriage lie devastatingly exposed before our eyes. Carter delves into the viscera of our distorted sexuality and reveals a stunning vision of love that admits neither the conqueror nor the conquered. A dazzling meditation on women's sexual freedom. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This is a brilliant book, and brilliantly fun to read. Carter analyzes the women in the work of the Marquis de Sade, gleaning remarkable insights into how women survive in a man's world (hint: virtue will get you nowhere). This book is everything that literary criticism should beÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â •surprising, clever, and offering a new way to look at the world around you through the prism of unlikely heroines. I cannot recommend this book highly enough.

There is little in the way of analysis of Sade's thought in this book. As philosophy, or simply as nonfiction, the author presents ideas then contradicts them then rambles on to another topic. A good chunk of the book is about Hollywood movies.The premise is important. The execution is not. The writing style is pedestrian and the vocabulary is too limited.There's no Sade, no Sadeian woman, little exercise, and shallow cultural history. Surprisingly bad book from a usually very good writer.

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