



The Crimes of Love

By Marquis de Sade

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The Crimes of Love By Marquis de Sade

Who but the Marquis de Sade would write, not of the pain, tragedy, and joy of love, but of its crimes? Murder, seduction, and incest are among the cruel rewards for selfless love in these stories; tragedy, despair, and death the inevitable outcome. Sade's villains will stop at nothing to satisfy their depraved passions, and they in turn suffer under the thrall of love. Psychologically astute and defiantly unconventional, these tales show Sade at his best. A skilled and artful storyteller, he is also an intellectual who asks questions about society, about ourselves, and about life, for which we have yet to find the answers.

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Editorial Review

Review

'To brief stories of lewd monks, ruttish wives and cuckolds, he added longer and darker intrigues in the fashionable Gothic vein. Published as *Les Crimes de l'Amour*, they show off Sade's literary skills to good effect. They survive admirably in Margaret Crosland's excellent new translation of the five longer narratives.' - TLS 'The Crimes of Love is an atypical selection of work from a man whose example we cite as the prototype of sexual cruelty. Perhaps driven by remorse for having once "flagellated working-class women", Sade now becomes a champion (however tarnished) of the female cause, giving women the dominant roles in his fiction and always avenging their lost honour - rape and incest are crimes punishable by death. What is the moral of these delightful stories? Perhaps that even a sadist can feel sad.' - Financial Times 'Sadeologists should be fascinated.' - Daily Telegraph

Language Notes

Text: English (translation)

Original Language: French

About the Author

The Marquis de Sade was born in Paris in 1740 and served as a cavalry officer in the Seven Years War. His debauched life led to long periods of imprisonment, during which much of his work was written. The revolution freed him and he became a zealous revolutionary; however, the publication of such works as *Justine* and *La Philosophie Dans La Boudoir* resulted in his renewed imprisonment and in 1803 he was declared insane and committed to the asylum at Charenton, where he died in 1814.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Christine Clute:

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