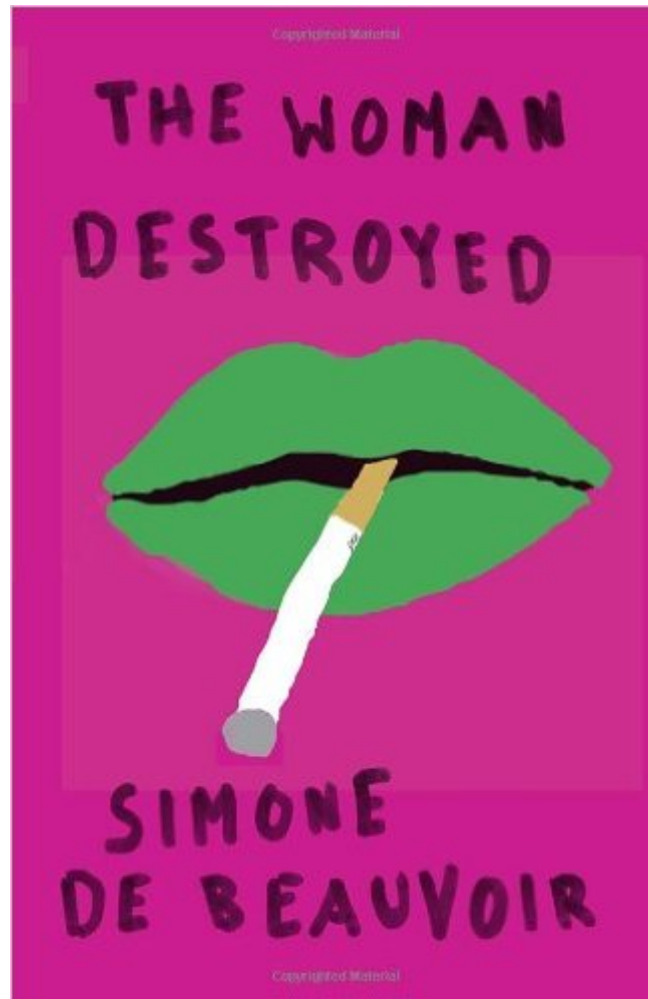


The book was found

The Woman Destroyed (Pantheon Modern Writers)



Synopsis

In three immensely intelligent stories about the decay of passion • (The Sunday Herald Times [London]), Simone de Beauvoir draws us into the lives of three women, all past their first youth, all facing unexpected crises. Enthralling as fiction, suffused with de Beauvoir's remarkable insights into women, *The Woman Destroyed* gives us a legendary writer at her best.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Good one! I've only read an excerpt of *The Second Sex* and was happy to find this collection of short stories (or stories and a novella) at a yard sale. I love de Beauvoir's writing, both her use of language and how she deeply examines her female characters' internal lives. The first story, "The Age of Discretion," deals with a mother of a grown son. She'd always had such a strong influence on him and on his life decisions, and now copes with his independent views and choices. An American might call her controlling and withholding, but many mothers, including me, might also relate to the conflicting feelings of a child pulling away (although it usually happens when they are children!). At the same time, this mother, a respected writer, has come out with a new book, one that receives only mediocre reviews. She is forced to deal with the idea that her years of work on that book and a related follow-up she is currently working on are wasted effort. Twined in with all this is the simple fact of aging and diminishing. She observes it in her husband and confronts it in herself. Such good writing. "Monologue" is a long stream-of-consciousness rant, difficult to read due to long paragraphs and esoteric punctuation. This woman rails against everything and everyone.

She's one put-upon lady. No fun to read, not the format and not the subject. Luckily, it's the shortest story. The best by far is the title story, about a woman whose husband is having an affair. This is told in diary form by the betrayed wife, Monique, so would reflect her innermost thoughts on what happens and how she responds. de Beauvoir's writing is so intelligent and the storyline so French.

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