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"At the meal . . . my mother told me we were going together to the milliner to see some hats."

(Letters of Two Brides, page 146)



At the same time, the author of the book
wrote a number of other works, and
some of these were also published.

Library Edition

A DAUGHTER OF EVE
A WOMAN OF THIRTY
AND OTHER STORIES

BY
HONORÉ DE BALZAC
With Introductions by
GEORGE SAINTSBURY



THE THOMPSON PUBLISHING COMPANY
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CONTENTS

PART I

	PAGE
<i>INTRODUCTION</i> - - - -	ix

A DAUGHTER OF EVE:

(*Une Fille d'Ève.*)

CHAP.

I. THE TWO MARIES - - - -	2
II. SISTERLY CONFIDENCES - - - -	14
III. THE STORY OF A HAPPY WOMAN - - - -	21
IV. A MAN OF NOTE - - - -	31
V. FLORINE - - - -	48
VI. LOVE VERSUS SOCIETY - - - -	64
VII. SUICIDE - - - -	83
VIII. A LOVER SAVED AND LOST - - - -	100
IX. A HUSBAND'S TRIUMPH - - - -	117

LETTERS OF TWO BRIDES:

(*Mémoires de deux jeunes Mariées.*)

FIRST PART - - - -	132
SECOND PART - - - -	315

(Translator, R. S. SCOTT.)

PART II

	PAGE
INTRODUCTION - - - - -	ix

*A WOMAN OF THIRTY:**(La Femme de Trente Ans.)*

I. EARLY MISTAKES - - - - -	I
II. A HIDDEN GRIEF - - - - -	72
III. AT THIRTY YEARS - - - - -	93
IV. THE FINGER OF GOD - - - - -	116
V. TWO MEETINGS - - - - -	130
VI. THE OLD AGE OF A GUILTY MOTHER - - - - -	181

*THE DESERTED WOMAN - - - - -**(La Femme Abandonnée.)**LA GRENADIÈRE - - - - -**(La Grenadière.)**THE MESSAGE - - - - -**(Le Message.)**GOBSECK - - - - -**(Gobseck.)**PIERRE GRASSOU - - - - -**(Pierre Grassou.)*

(Translator, ELLEN MARRIAGE.)

ILLUSTRATIONS

PART I

THE HAND ON THE BALCONY SEEMED AS THOUGH IT'S HOLD WERE RELAXING (p. 244)	-	-	<i>Frontispiece</i>
			PAGE
DU TILLET TOOK HIS WIFE'S ARM AND			
PLANTED HER BEFORE HIM - - - -	-	-	20
I WAS SITTING UNDER A WILLOW - - - -	-	-	300

PART II

HE TURNED HIS HEAD TOWARDS HIS HOST'S DAUGHTER -			148
BY THE TIME FOUGÈRES BEGAN THE PORTRAIT OF VIR- GINIE, HE WAS ALREADY THE SON-IN-LAW ELECT OF THE VERVELLE COUPLE - - - -	-	-	366

A DAUGHTER OF EVE
AND
LETTERS OF TWO BRIDES

INTRODUCTION

OPINIONS of the larger division of this book will vary in pretty direct ratio with the general taste of the reader for Balzac in his more sentimental mood, and for his delineations of virtuous or "honest" women. As is the case with the number of the *Comédie* which immediately succeeds it in *Scènes de la Vie Privée*, I cannot say of it that it appeals to me personally with any strong attraction. It is, however, much later and much more accomplished work than *La Femme de Trente Ans* and its companions. It is possible also that opinion may be conditioned by likes or dislikes for novels written in the form of letters, but this cannot count for very much. Some of the best novels in the world, and some of the worst, have taken this form, so that the form itself can have had nothing necessarily to do with their goodness and badness by itself.

Something of the odd perversity which seems to make it so difficult for a French author to imagine a woman, not necessarily a model of perfection, who combines love for her husband of the passionate kind with love for her children of the animal sort, common-sense and good housewifery with freedom from the characteristics of the mere *ménagère*, interest in affairs and books and things in general without, in the French sense, "dissipation" or neglect of home,—appears in the division of the parts of Louise de Chaulieu and Renée de Maucombe. I cannot think that Balzac has improved his book, though he has made it much easier to write, by this separation. We should take more interest in Renée's

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