

a simple heart gustave flaubert

A Simple Heart by Gustave Flaubert: Exploring the Depths of Human Emotion

a simple heart gustave flaubert is a timeless literary masterpiece that delves into the profound simplicity of human emotions and the quiet dignity of an ordinary woman's life. Written by the celebrated French author Gustave Flaubert, this novella captures the essence of love, loyalty, and sacrifice through the eyes of Félicité, a devoted servant. If you're intrigued by classic literature that touches the heart with subtle yet powerful storytelling, understanding "A Simple Heart" can offer valuable insights into the human condition and 19th-century French society.

Understanding the Context of A Simple Heart by Gustave Flaubert

Before diving into the story itself, it's helpful to know a bit about Gustave Flaubert and the era in which he wrote. Flaubert, one of the leading figures in literary realism, is best known for his novel "Madame Bovary." However, "A Simple Heart" (originally "Un cœur simple") stands out as a poignant exploration of simplicity and faithfulness.

Set in 19th-century Normandy, the novella reflects the social norms and class distinctions of the time. It was published in 1877 as part of a collection called "Three Tales" ("Trois Contes"), which also included "The Legend of Saint Julian the Hospitaller" and "Herodias." Flaubert's focus on a humble servant's life marked a departure from grand narratives, emphasizing instead the everyday experiences that reveal universal truths.

The Significance of the Title

The title "A Simple Heart" immediately points to the story's central theme: the purity and sincerity of Félicité's emotions. Unlike characters driven by ambition or complexity, Félicité embodies straightforward, unconditional love. This simplicity is not a sign of ignorance but rather an authentic way of engaging with the world, which challenges readers to reconsider what it means to live a meaningful life.

Plot Overview: The Life and Love of Félicité

At its core, "A Simple Heart" traces the life journey of Félicité, a servant woman who experiences loss, loneliness, and devotion. Throughout the novella, her unwavering loyalty to her employers and her capacity for love—whether for

her mistress, her nephew, or even a pet parrot—illustrate the depth of her character.

Key Events in the Story

- **Félicité's Early Life:** Raised in a modest family, Félicité is sent to serve the Aubain household, where she forms a strong bond with her mistress, Madame Aubain.
- **Experiencing Loss:** The deaths of Madame Aubain's husband and children deeply affect Félicité, highlighting themes of grief and endurance.
- **Her Relationship with Victor:** Félicité's nephew, Victor, represents her hope and familial love, but his untimely death adds to her sorrow.
- **The Parrot Loulou:** Perhaps the most symbolic element, Félicité's affection for her parrot transcends mere pet ownership, reflecting her need for companionship and spiritual connection.
- **Félicité's Final Years:** The story culminates in her quiet death, marked by the presence of the parrot, which has become a symbol of her inner life and faith.

Thematic Exploration in A Simple Heart Gustave Flaubert

Flaubert's novella is rich with themes that resonate beyond its simple narrative. By examining these themes, readers gain a deeper appreciation for the story's subtle complexity.

Unconditional Love and Devotion

One of the most striking aspects of Félicité's character is her capacity to love unconditionally. Her love is not grandiose or dramatic but steadfast and humble. Whether caring for her mistress or nurturing her nephew, her affection remains pure and unwavering. This theme encourages readers to reflect on the many forms love can take, especially the quiet, often overlooked expressions of care.

Loneliness and Isolation

Despite her devotion, Félicité's life is marked by loneliness. Her social status as a servant places her on the margins of society, and the loss of loved ones intensifies her isolation. Flaubert uses this to highlight the emotional struggles of individuals who live unnoticed by the world but whose inner lives are rich and meaningful.

Faith and Spirituality

Faith subtly permeates the novella, particularly through Félicité's attachment to the parrot, which she imagines as a manifestation of the Holy Spirit. This spiritual dimension adds depth to her character, suggesting that faith can be found in unexpected places and forms, especially in those who are simple yet sincere.

Literary Style and Symbolism in A Simple Heart

Flaubert's writing style in "A Simple Heart" is marked by clarity, precision, and emotional restraint. His use of realism allows the story's emotional power to emerge naturally without melodrama.

Symbolism of the Parrot

The parrot, named Loulou, is a central symbol in the novella. It represents more than just a pet; it embodies Félicité's longing for companionship, her spiritual aspirations, and ultimately, the link between the mundane and the divine. The parrot's ability to mimic human speech can be seen as a metaphor for the human desire to connect beyond words.

Flaubert's Narrative Technique

Flaubert's approach to storytelling is meticulous, focusing on detailed descriptions and subtle character development. His technique invites readers to observe life through Félicité's eyes, fostering empathy and understanding. The restrained narrative tone also emphasizes the contrast between the simplicity of Félicité's heart and the complexities of the world around her.

Why A Simple Heart Gustave Flaubert Remains Relevant Today

Despite being set in the 19th century, “A Simple Heart” continues to resonate with modern readers. Its exploration of love, loss, and faith speaks to universal human experiences that transcend time and culture.

Lessons from Félicité’s Life

Félicité’s story teaches us about resilience and the power of small acts of kindness. In a world often obsessed with grand achievements, her life reminds us that dignity and worth can be found in simplicity and devotion. This perspective is especially valuable in today’s fast-paced and complicated society.

Inspiration for Modern Literature and Art

The novella has inspired countless adaptations and interpretations, from films to theatrical productions, demonstrating its enduring appeal. Writers and artists continue to draw from its themes to explore the nuances of human emotion and social realities.

Tips for Reading and Appreciating A Simple Heart

If you’re planning to read “A Simple Heart” or want to deepen your understanding, here are some helpful tips:

1. **Pay Attention to Details:** Flaubert’s descriptions often carry symbolic weight, so notice small gestures and objects.
2. **Consider the Historical Context:** Understanding 19th-century French society can enrich your interpretation of the characters’ roles and struggles.
3. **Reflect on the Themes:** Take time to think about how love, faith, and loneliness manifest in your own life and in the story.
4. **Discuss with Others:** Sharing interpretations can reveal new insights and deepen appreciation.

Exploring "a simple heart gustave flaubert" is a journey into the heart of human emotion conveyed through one of literature's most sensitive and profound narratives. Félicité's life, marked by quiet devotion and unassuming courage, invites readers to see beauty in simplicity and to value the often invisible threads that connect us all. Whether you are a lover of classic literature or someone seeking meaningful stories about life's essential truths, Flaubert's novella remains a touching and unforgettable read.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the main theme of 'A Simple Heart' by Gustave Flaubert?

The main theme of 'A Simple Heart' is the exploration of simple, selfless love and devotion, especially through the life of its protagonist, Félicité, a humble servant whose unwavering loyalty and kindness define her existence.

Who is the protagonist of 'A Simple Heart' and what is her significance?

The protagonist is Félicité, a poor and devoted servant whose simple faith and unconditional love highlight Flaubert's critique of social class and the nature of true virtue.

How does Gustave Flaubert portray religion in 'A Simple Heart'?

Flaubert portrays religion through Félicité's sincere but naive faith, illustrating both the comfort it provides and its limitations, while subtly critiquing organized religion and highlighting personal spirituality.

What is the narrative style used in 'A Simple Heart'?

The story is told in a third-person omniscient narrative style, allowing insights into Félicité's inner life and emotions while maintaining a tone of irony and realism characteristic of Flaubert's writing.

How does 'A Simple Heart' reflect Flaubert's literary style?

The story reflects Flaubert's literary style through its precise, detailed descriptions, objective tone, and focus on ordinary characters, emphasizing realism and the complexity of everyday life.

What role does the parrot play in 'A Simple Heart'?

The parrot, Loulou, symbolizes Félicité's affection and companionship; it becomes a spiritual substitute for her lost loved ones and reflects her simple, loyal nature.

Why is 'A Simple Heart' considered a significant work in French literature?

It is significant for its masterful depiction of an ordinary life with profound emotional depth, showcasing Flaubert's skill in realism and his challenge to romanticized narratives of virtue and heroism.

How does the story 'A Simple Heart' address social class?

The story highlights the disparities and social constraints of 19th-century France, portraying Félicité's humble status and how her worth and dignity transcend social class through her genuine kindness.

What is the ending of 'A Simple Heart' and its meaning?

The story ends with Félicité's death, during which she imagines her parrot transformed into the Holy Spirit, symbolizing her spiritual transcendence and the purity of her simple faith.

How does 'A Simple Heart' fit within Flaubert's collection 'Three Tales'?

'A Simple Heart' is one of three stories in the collection 'Three Tales,' each exploring different aspects of human experience—simple devotion, fanaticism, and romantic idealism—showcasing Flaubert's range and thematic interests.

Additional Resources

A Simple Heart Gustave Flaubert: An Analytical Review of the Masterful Short Story

a simple heart gustave flaubert stands as a poignant example of 19th-century French literature, showcasing the author's unparalleled skill in combining realism with profound emotional depth. This short story, originally published in 1877 as part of the collection "Three Tales" ("Trois Contes"), encapsulates the life and experiences of Félicité, a humble and selfless servant, whose quiet devotion and unassuming existence evoke a surprisingly powerful narrative. Exploring themes of love, sacrifice, and simplicity,

Flaubert crafts a tale that resonates profoundly with readers, making it an essential study in literary circles and a frequently analyzed piece in both academic and casual contexts.

Context and Background of A Simple Heart

Gustave Flaubert

Flaubert, widely celebrated for his novel "Madame Bovary," is known for his meticulous prose and dedication to literary realism. "A Simple Heart" reflects these qualities but distills them into a shorter format that intensifies emotional impact through economy of language and a focus on the quotidian. The story is set in rural Normandy and spans several decades in the life of its protagonist, Félicité, whose simple lifestyle contrasts sharply with the complex social and emotional dynamics around her.

The narrative unfolds with an understated but powerful tone, avoiding melodrama while eliciting deep sympathy for Félicité. The story's setting, characters, and plot development are all carefully constructed to reflect broader social realities of 19th-century France, including class distinctions and the role of women in society. This context is crucial for understanding the full significance of the story's themes and Flaubert's artistic intentions.

In-depth Analysis of Themes and Style

Thematic Exploration: Simplicity and Devotion

At the heart of "a simple heart gustave flaubert" lies the exploration of simplicity as both a virtue and a limitation. Félicité, a devoted servant, embodies innocence and unwavering loyalty, traits that contrast with the often harsh and indifferent world she inhabits. Her love is expressed not through grand gestures but through everyday acts of kindness and sacrifice. This devotion extends beyond human relationships to her affection for her parrot, Loulou, highlighting a recurring motif of unconditional love.

Flaubert's portrayal of Félicité challenges readers to reconsider the notion of heroism and value in human life. Instead of focusing on extraordinary achievements, the story elevates the quiet endurance and emotional richness found in ordinary existence. This thematic focus resonates widely, making the story relevant across cultures and eras.

Realism and Narrative Technique

Flaubert's hallmark realism is evident in the detailed depiction of Félicité's environment and experiences. The story's narrative voice maintains a neutral, almost clinical tone, which paradoxically intensifies the emotional impact by allowing readers to draw their conclusions. This technique avoids sentimentalism, ensuring that the story remains grounded in authenticity.

The use of free indirect discourse—a narrative style that blends the narrator's voice with the character's inner thoughts—adds depth to Félicité's character without overt exposition. Through subtle descriptions and carefully chosen details, Flaubert reveals the protagonist's inner world, enabling readers to empathize with her without patronizing her simplicity.

Character Study: Félicité as a Symbol of Humble Virtue

Félicité is arguably one of Flaubert's most memorable characters, not because of dramatic events but due to her steadfast nature and profound emotional capacity. Her life is marked by losses—her mistress's death, the death of her nephew, and the eventual death of her beloved parrot—which she endures with quiet resignation. These losses serve to highlight her resilience and the depth of her emotional attachments.

The character's symbolic role extends beyond the personal; Félicité represents the marginalized individuals whose lives often go unnoticed yet contain profound meaning. By focusing on such a character, Flaubert critiques societal indifference and elevates the concept of spiritual richness found in simplicity.

Symbolism and Religious Undertones

Symbolism in "a simple heart gustave flaubert" enriches the narrative, particularly through Félicité's relationship with Loulou, the parrot. The bird symbolizes innocence, companionship, and even spiritual transcendence. After Loulou's death, Félicité's attachment to a relic of the parrot and her eventual vision involving the Holy Spirit suggest a blend of earthly affection and religious faith.

Religious motifs permeate the story subtly, reflecting Félicité's naive yet sincere spirituality. The story's conclusion, which hints at her soul's ascent, invites interpretations related to redemption and salvation, offering a nuanced commentary on faith and the human condition.

Comparative Perspectives and Literary Significance

When comparing "a simple heart gustave flaubert" with other contemporary works, its unique blend of realism and emotional depth stands out. Unlike the more dramatic or moralistic stories of the time, Flaubert's narrative is understated yet deeply affecting. The story contrasts with his own "Madame Bovary," which explores romantic idealism and disillusionment, by focusing instead on steadfastness and humility.

The story's influence extends into modern literature, inspiring writers to explore the lives of ordinary people with empathy and nuance. Its concise structure and rich symbolism make it a favorite subject for literary analysis, and it continues to be a staple in academic curricula worldwide.

Pros and Cons of Flaubert's Approach in the Story

- **Pros:**

- Masterful use of realism that enhances authenticity.
- Deep emotional resonance achieved through simple narrative.
- Complex themes presented without overt moralizing.
- Rich symbolism that invites multiple interpretations.

- **Cons:**

- Some readers may find the story's pace slow or uneventful.
- The understated tone might be perceived as emotionally detached.
- Limited character development beyond Félicité may reduce broader narrative engagement.

Despite these minor drawbacks, the story's overall impact remains significant, particularly for readers interested in literary realism and the exploration of human dignity.

Modern Relevance and Adaptations

"A simple heart gustave flaubert" continues to captivate readers and scholars due to its timeless themes and masterful storytelling. In an era often dominated by fast-paced narratives and sensationalism, Flaubert's story reminds us of the power found in quiet lives and unspoken sacrifices. Its exploration of social class, gender roles, and spirituality remains pertinent, encouraging contemporary audiences to reflect on the values of empathy and humility.

The story has inspired numerous adaptations, including films, stage productions, and translations into multiple languages, each interpretation highlighting different facets of the original text. These adaptations serve not only to honor Flaubert's work but also to introduce it to new generations in varied cultural contexts.

In the realm of classic French literature, "a simple heart gustave flaubert" embodies a profound meditation on human existence through the lens of simplicity. Its enduring appeal lies in Flaubert's ability to render an ordinary life extraordinary, inviting readers to find beauty and meaning in the most unassuming corners of life.

[A Simple Heart Gustave Flaubert](#)

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a simple heart gustave flaubert: A Simple Heart Gustave Flaubert, 2020-04-27 A Simple Heart moved me to tears.—Russell Baker In A Simple Heart, the poignant story that inspired Julian Barnes' Flaubert's Parrot, Félicité, a French housemaid, approaches a lifetime of servitude with human-scaled but angelic aplomb. No other author has imparted so much beauty and integrity to so modest an existence. Flaubert's great saint endures loss after loss by embracing the rich, true rhythms of life: the comfort of domesticity, the solace of the Church, and the depth of memory. This novella showcases Flaubert's perfectly honed realism: a delicate counterpoint of daily events with their psychological repercussions. Flaubert is diagnosis, Ezra Pound wrote, the whole of Flaubert, the whole fight for the novel as 'histoire morale contemporaine' was a fight against maxims, against abstractions, a fight back toward a human and/or total conception.

a simple heart gustave flaubert: A Study Guide for Gustave Flaubert's "Simple Heart" Gale, Cengage Learning, A Study Guide for Gustave Flaubert's Simple Heart, excerpted from Gale's acclaimed Short Stories for Students. This concise study guide includes plot summary; character analysis; author biography; study questions; historical context; suggestions for further reading; and

much more. For any literature project, trust *Short Stories for Students* for all of your research needs.

a simple heart gustave flaubert: A Simple Soul Gustave Flaubert, 2020-09-29 *A Simple Soul* is a not so simple story about a French maid, who experiences the vicissitudes of life to its full extent. A story that serves as the inspiration behind Julian Barnes' *Flaubert's Parrot*, the book excels in a perfect mixture of realism and psychological insights. Flaubert constructed a totally different protagonist compared to his earlier novels, teeming with corrupt and vile characters. The attention to detail, picturesque descriptions, and the loving attitude of Félicité makes this story a perfect read for any fan of beautiful prose and selfless acts of love and kindness. Gustave Flaubert has earned his rightful place among the greatest French and Western writers. His literary career is famous for extraordinary style, exact dictum, and remarkable proportions of the depicted situations. Gently navigating the delicate line between romanticism and realism, Flaubert's influence is undeniable. His best known works include the scandalous and overtly realistic *Madam Bovary*, the historical novel *Salammbô* and the painting-inspired *The Temptation of Saint Anthony*.

a simple heart gustave flaubert: Gustave Flaubert - a Simple Soul Gustave Flaubert, 2016-12-18 *A Simple Heart*, also called *Un coeur simple* or *Le perroquet* in French, is a story about a servant girl named Félicité. After her one and only love Théodore purportedly marries a well-to-do woman to avoid conscription, Félicité quits the farm she works on and heads for Pont-l'Évêque where she immediately picks up work in a widow's house as a servant. She is very loyal, and easily lends her affections to the two children of her mistress, Mme Aubain. She gives entirely to others, and although many take advantage of her she is unaffected. She is the epitome of a selfless character, and Flaubert shows how true altruism - the reality of being truly selfless - is the reward in itself. Whatever comes her way she is able to deal with it.

a simple heart gustave flaubert: A Simple Heart Sandrine Guihéneuf, 2023-04-07 What should we learn from *A Simple Heart*, the moving short story with an almost mystical dimension? Find everything you need to know about this work in a complete and detailed analysis. You will find in this file : - A complete summary - A presentation of the main characters such as Félicité, Madame Aubain and Loulou - An analysis of the specificities of the work: the narrative scheme, the actantial scheme and between tale and short story A reference analysis to quickly understand the meaning of the work.

a simple heart gustave flaubert: A Simple Soul Gustave Flaubert, 2021-03-11 *A Simple Soul* by Gustave Flaubert *A Simple Heart* is a classic novel by the French writer Gustave Flaubert first published in his collection of novels *Three Tales* in 1877. The story centers on a servant named Félicité. Félicité's only love, Théodore, marries a richer woman to avoid conscription. Leaving the farm where she works, Félicité goes to Pont-l'Évêque and becomes a widow's maid. There she lives her life in humble, angelic and deeply loyal servitude. Although she is ignorant, she has no family, no life outside of her work apart from her her faith in her, and she dies almost unnoticed by anyone, Félicité's simple existence is filled with deep spiritual meaning. Some of the novel's themes include the consolations of the church and home life, the richness of memory, and the repercussions of daily events on the psyche. The story inspired Julian Barnes' novel *Flaubert's Parrot*, published in 1984.

a simple heart gustave flaubert: Un Coeur Simple Gustave Flaubert, 2017-07-16 *Un coeur simple* by Gustave Flaubert

a simple heart gustave flaubert: A Simple Soul: Large Print Gustave Flaubert, 2019-02-28 A story about a girl named Félicité. She is a servant who has lived with the same family ever since she was betrayed by her lover. She has a strong sense of loyalty and self sacrifice: she lives to help others. Flaubert provides us with a full character which exhibits a quiet, uneducated saintliness that weathers a life of significant hardship. The text is down-to-earth realistic description with simple items such as a map illustrating her complete lack of education and a (stuffed) parrot which the priest recognizes the importance of in a final gesture to the servant. This is a must read book.

a simple heart gustave flaubert: A Simple Soul Gustave Flaubert, 2025-08-14 Reproduction of the original. The Antigonos publishing house specialises in the publication of reprints of historical

books. We make sure that these works are made available to the public in good condition in order to preserve their cultural heritage.

a simple heart gustave flaubert: Poems from the Book of Hours Rainer Maria Rilke, 1975 Rilke's Book of Hours falls into three parts: The Book of Monkish Life (1899), The Book of Pilgrimage (1901), and The Book of Poverty and Death (1903). Although these poems were the work of Rilke's youth, they contain the germ of his mature convictions. Written as spontaneously received prayers, they celebrate a God who is not the Creator of the Universe, but seems to be rather humanity itself, and, above all, that most intensely conscious part of humanity, the artist. This exquisite gift edition contains Babette Deutsch's classic translations, which capture the rich harmony and suggestive imagery of the originals, allowing interpretations both religious and philosophical, and transporting the reader to new heights of inspiration and musicality.

a simple heart gustave flaubert: Wiederaufgelegt Annette Gilbert, 2014-03-15 Was Jorge Luis Borges 1939 in »Pierre Menard, Autor des Quijote« noch imaginierte, ist inzwischen aus der Literatur nicht mehr wegzudenken: Seit den 1950er Jahren, insbesondere aber im letzten Jahrzehnt, entstehen Bücher, für die keine neuen Texte mehr produziert, sondern bereits existierende Texte oder gar ganze Bücher wiederaufgelegt werden. Traditionelle Kategorien wie »Original« und »Autorschaft« werden dabei in Frage gestellt. Dieser Sammelband will das Phänomen der Appropriation von Texten und Büchern in Büchern erstmals erfassen und einen Überblick über seine Bandbreite in historischer, systematischer und komparatistischer Sicht geben.

a simple heart gustave flaubert: A Simple Soul Flaubert Gustave, 2016-06-21 Unlike some other reproductions of classic texts (1) We have not used OCR(Optical Character Recognition), as this leads to bad quality books with introduced typos. (2) In books where there are images such as portraits, maps, sketches etc We have endeavoured to keep the quality of these images, so they represent accurately the original artefact. Although occasionally there may be certain imperfections with these old texts, we feel they deserve to be made available for future generations to enjoy.

a simple heart gustave flaubert: A Noble Madness James Delbourgo, 2025-08-12 "In this fascinating, witty, and provocative book, Delbourgo's collectors range from emperors to scientists, from shopaholics to taxonomists, from bibliomaniacs to serial killers. Give it to the collector in your life, and watch the sparks fly!"—Cathy Gere, author of *The Tomb of Agamemnon* A captivating history of obsessive collectors: from ancient looters and idolaters to fin de siècle decadents, Freudian psychos, and hoarders. Collectors are often praised for their taste in art or contributions to science, and considered great public benefactors. But collectors have also been seen as dangerous obsessives who love objects too much. Why? From looters and idolaters to fin de siècle decadents and Freudian psychos, *A Noble Madness* is a captivating history of obsessive collectors from ancient times to today. From Roman emperors lusting after statues to modern-day hoarders, award-winning author James Delbourgo tells the extraordinary story of fanatical collectors throughout history. He explains how the idea first emerged that when we look at someone's collection, we see a portrait of their soul: complex, intriguing, yet possibly insane. What Delbourgo calls "the Romantic collecting self" has always lurked on the dark side of humanity. But this dark side has a silver lining. Because obsessive collectors are driven by passion, not profit, they have been countercultural heroes in the modern imagination, defying respectability and taste in the name of truth to self. A grand portrait gallery of collectors in all their decadent glory, *A Noble Madness* recounts the saga of the human urge to accumulate, from Caligula to Marie Antoinette, Balzac to Freud, Norman Bates to Andy Warhol. Collectors' love of objects may be mad, even dangerous. But we want to believe their love's a noble madness because by expressing that love, they are themselves.

a simple heart gustave flaubert: The Devil Leo Tolstoy, 2012-11-06 I am acting badly, thought Yevgeny, But what's one to do? Anyhow it is not for long. Leo Tolstoy is known for epic novels that brilliantly dissect society, but the novella *The Devil* may be the most personally revealing—and startling—fiction he ever wrote. He thought it so scandalous, in fact, that he hid the manuscript in the upholstery of a chair in his office so his wife wouldn't find it, and he would never allow it to be published in his lifetime. Perhaps that's because the gripping tale of an aristocratic

landowner slowly overcome with unrelenting sexual desire for one of the peasants on his estate was strikingly similar to an affair Tolstoy himself had. Regardless, the tale—presented here with the two separate endings Tolstoy couldn't decide between—is a scintillating study of sexual attraction and human obsession. The Art of The Novella Series Too short to be a novel, too long to be a short story, the novella is generally unrecognized by academics and publishers. Nonetheless, it is a form beloved and practiced by literature's greatest writers. In the Art Of The Novella series, Melville House celebrates this renegade art form and its practitioners with titles that are, in many instances, presented in book form for the first time.

a simple heart gustave flaubert: *The Duel* Giacomo Casanova, 2011-08-16 About This Book It was his intention to trade a few sword-thrusts in some place or another, and get the business over with. A sparkling new translation tells the tale of a young libertine who finds his rapier wit matched by actual rapiers. In this autobiographical tale, a young dandy is forced to flee his hometown after falling afoul of the authorities. But sheltering in the royal court he finds treachery and insult and is eventually positioned into a meaningless confrontation over a woman he cares nothing about. Told with debonair wit and a merciless attitude toward high society, the tale becomes a tense adventure that leads to a surprising outcome. This Is An Enhanced eBook This eBook contains Illuminations—additional illustrated material that expand the world of Casanova's novella through text and illustrations—at no additional charge. Illuminations contains writings by Havelock Ellis - W.E. Garrett Fisher - Richard von Kraft Ebbing - Arthur Schnitzler - Arthur Symonds - Mark Twain - And the entire version of Casanova's duel as written in his personal memoirs. Full-color illustrations include: Francesco Casanova - Anton Raphael Mengs - Jean-Marc Nattier - Johann Berka - 1841 map of Weehawken - An Air Balloon Engagement by J. Barrow - and portraits of the ten most deadly duelists. Also Included: "Famous Duels, Duelists and Dueling Grounds"

a simple heart gustave flaubert: *The Abbess of Castro* Stendhal, 2014-08-12 Brigands, convents under siege, a prince who'd do Machiavelli proud . . . This adventurous novella from a writer famous for far longer works is a singular take on love and war in Renaissance Italy. Claiming to be translating from sixteenth-century manuscripts, Stendhal tells the story of two doomed young lovers—one the daughter of the wealthiest man in the district, the other a brigand. It's a genuinely moving tale of impossible love—with plenty of swordfights thrown in—that's unique in Stendhal's oeuvre, not least in its portrait of an intelligent woman who, ill-starred in love, turns to worldly power. There's also some sparkling analysis of the conditions that produced the great art of the Renaissance. But *The Abbess of Castro*—first published in the same year as Stendhal's novel *The Charterhouse of Parma*—is also characterized by themes that pervade his longer novels: political and familial machinations, a profoundly unsentimental view of war, ambitious individuals undone by passion. Never before available as a standalone edition, the novella is a powerful dose of the writer at the peak of his skills.

a simple heart gustave flaubert: *The Union Jack* Imre Kertész, 2013-07-09 It was...unnecessary for me to fret about who the murderer was: Everybody was. A haunting, never-before-translated, autobiographical novella by the 2002 Nobel Prize winner. An unnamed narrator recounts a simple anecdote, his sighting of the Union Jack—the British Flag—during the Hungarian Revolution of 1956, in the few days preceding the uprising's brutal repression by the Soviet army. In the telling, partly a digressive meditation on the absurd order of chance, he recalls his youthful self, and the epiphanies of his intellectual and spiritual awakening—an awakening to a kind of radical subjectivity. In his Nobel address Kertész remembered: I, on a lovely spring day in 1955, suddenly came to the realization that there exists only one reality, and that is me, my own life, this fragile gift bestowed for an uncertain time, which had been seized, expropriated by alien forces, and circumscribed, marked up, branded—and which I had to take back from 'History', this dreadful Moloch, because it was mine and mine alone... The Contemporary Art of the Novella series is designed to highlight work by major authors from around the world. In most instances, as with Imre Kertész, it showcases work never before published; in others, books are reprised that should never have gone out of print. It is intended that the series feature many well-known authors and some

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