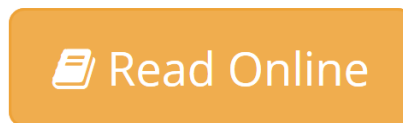


The Sexual Life of Catherine M.

By Catherine Millet



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A national best-seller that was featured on such lists as The New York Times, the Los Angeles Times, The Washington Post, the San Francisco Chronicle, The Boston Globe, and Publishers Weekly, *The Sexual Life of Catherine M.* was the controversial sleeper hit of the year. Since her youth, Catherine Millet, the eminent editor of *Art Press*, has led an extraordinarily active and free sexual life - from al fresco encounters in Italy to a gang bang on the edge of the Bois du Boulogne to a high-class orgy at a chichi Parisian restaurant. A graphic account of sex stripped of sentiment, of a life of physical gratification and a relentlessly honest look at the consequences -- both liberating and otherwise -- have created this candid, powerful, and deeply intelligent depiction of unfettered sexuality.

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The Sexual Life of Catherine M. By Catherine Millet Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Millet, art critic and editor of Art Press, has become a literary sensation in France with the publication of this graphic memoir of some 30 years of her sexual adventures. Millet's "gift for observation" and her "solid superego" are as useful in her career as an art critic as they are in her erotic explorations: her ability to concentrate and observe puts her inside "other people's skins." Comparisons have been made to *The Story Of O*, but Millet is more in the tradition of Jean Genet and Violette Leduc, whose descriptions of their sexual encounters were not meant to titillate so much as to explore the meaning of the erotic. Millet's "quest for the sexual grail" takes her to group orgies, gang bangs in French parks and other serial sex escapades. Before long, the sex begins to seem utterly routine, in spite of the elaborate staging. Millet and her readers are then free to consider more closely some questions she raises: how oral sex compares to vaginal intercourse; why sex in disgusting circumstances is not about "self-abasement," but raising oneself "above all prejudice"; or why solitary sex is more pleasurable for her than sex with a partner. Toward the end of this curiously graceful memoir, Millet comes close to explaining her need for all this sex: only by sloughing off the "mechanical body" she'd been born with could she experience actual sexual pleasure. While women readers will find much of interest, male readers may have to overcome a certain emperor's new clothes-type discomfort, as they realize that Millet may know more about the male body than they do.

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From Library Journal

In this steamy work, a best seller throughout Europe, the editor of France's Art Press shatters gender assumptions by detailing her rollicking sex life.

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From [Booklist](#)

In this delightfully unabashed memoir, Millet interweaves the erotic and the philosophical while recounting her sexual escapades. She reflects on the difference between intimacy and privacy, the interaction between physical space and mental space, the role of fantasy in sexuality, and the many permutations of love and desire that may arise between friends, lovers, and strangers. Neither glorifying nor criticizing the adventures of her youth, she offers detached, thoughtful discussion of her experiences, with the same care with which she might review a work of art. Touching on issues of trust, taboo, infidelity, jealousy, narcissism, marriage, anonymity, desire for affection, and sex as the expression of one's inner life, she recalls her first sexual experience, which involved several young men; orgies in which she has participated; spur-of-the-moment encounters with friends and strangers; and fantasies of becoming a high-class prostitute. Her intelligent, detailed examination of female sexuality fascinates and titillates. Readers of all persuasions about sex will derive something of value from Millet's honest, deeply personal exploration of her desires. *Bonnie Johnston*
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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Gena Colgan:

As people who live in the actual modest era should be revise about what going on or data even knowledge to make these people keep up with the era which can be always change and advance. Some of you maybe will

update themselves by studying books. It is a good choice in your case but the problems coming to you is you don't know which one you should start with. This The Sexual Life of Catherine M. is our recommendation to help you keep up with the world. Why, since this book serves what you want and need in this era.

Mildred Bostwick:

The actual book The Sexual Life of Catherine M. has a lot of knowledge on it. So when you make sure to read this book you can get a lot of help. The book was authored by the very famous author. Tom makes some research previous to write this book. This particular book very easy to read you will get the point easily after reading this book.

Jeremy Quick:

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