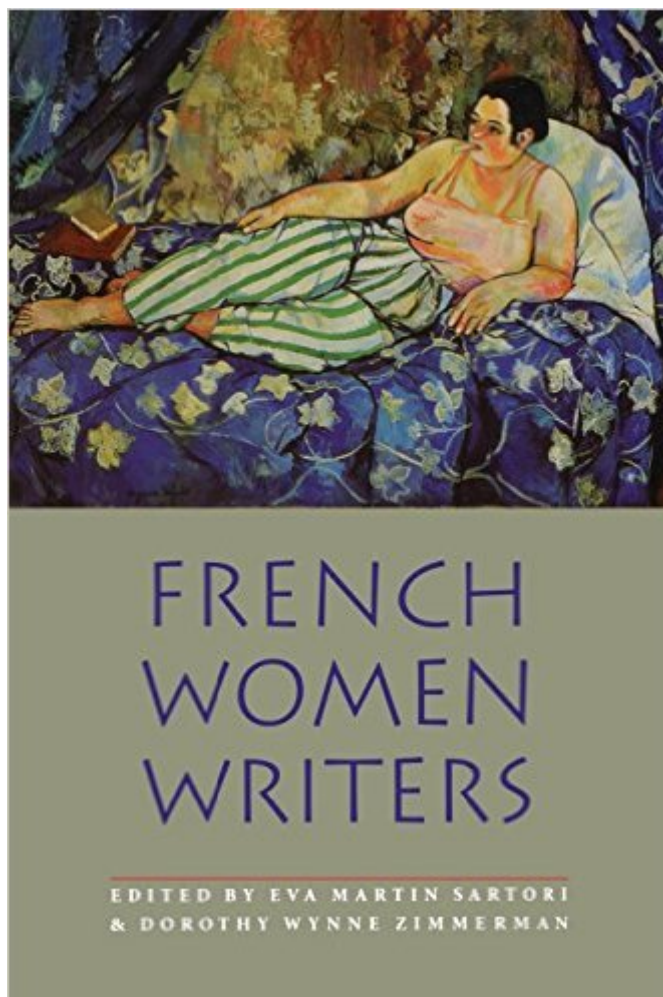


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French Women Writers (Bison Book)



Synopsis

Marie de France, Mme. De Sévigné, and Mme. De Lafayette achieved international reputations during periods when women in other European countries were able to write only letters, translations, religious tracts, and miscellaneous fragments. There were obstacles, but French women writers were more or less sustained and empowered by the French culture. Often unconventional in their personal lives and occupied with careers besides writing—as educators, painters, actresses, preachers, salon hostesses, labor organizers—these women did not wait for Simone de Beauvoir to tell them to make existential choices and have "projects in the world." *French Women Writers* describes the lives and careers of fifty-two literary figures from the twelfth century to the late twentieth. All the contributors are recognized authorities. Some of their subjects, like Colette and George Sand, are celebrated, and others are just now gaining critical notice. From Christine de Pizan and Marguerite de Navarre to Rachilde and Hélène Cixous, from Louise Labé to Marguerite Duras—these women speak through the centuries to issues of gender, sexuality, and language. *French Women Writers* now becomes widely available in this Bison Book edition.

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Customer Reviews

This book is extraordinary!! 51 major French female authors spanning from "The troubairitz" (c. 1170-1260) to Julia Kristeva (born 1941) are profiled with a highly informative biography, major

themes (her subjects), and survey of criticism. Each ends with a bibliography including books that are translations of the author published in English and studies published on the author. These women are so fascinating you will probably agree with British legend George Eliot that "...in France alone if the writings of women were to be swept away, a serious gap would be made in the national history." The women writers profiled here are Marie d'Agoult, Simone de Beauvoir, Isabelle de Charriere, Andree Chedid, Christine de Pizan, Colette, Sophie Cottin, Hellisenne de Crenne, Lucie Delarue-Mardrus, Marceline Desbordes-Valmore, Marie de Vichy-Chamrond, Marquise du Deffand; Pernelle du Guillet, Claire de Duras, Judith Gautier, Stephanie-Felicite, Comtesse de Genlis; Delphine Gay de Girardin, Marie Le Jars de Gournay, Francoise d'Lessebourg d'Happoncourt de Graffigny, Benoitte Groult, Luce Irigaray, Julia Kristeva, Juliane von Krudener, Louise Labe, Marie-Madeleine Pioche de La Vergne, Comtesse de Lafayette; Violette Leduc, Julie de Lespinasse, Francoise Mallet-Joris, Marguerite de Navarre, Marie de France, Anan de Noailles, Rachilde, Marie Jeanne Riccoboni, Christiane Rochefort, Marie Jeanne Philipon (Manon) Roland de la Platiere, Francoise Sagan, George Sand, Nathalie Sarraute, Albertine Sarrazin, Madeleine de Scudery, Sophie Rostopchine, Comtesse de Segur; Marie de Rabutin-Chantal, Marquise de Sevigne; Germaine Necker, Baronne de Stael; Claudine-Alexandrine Guerin de Tencin, Flora Tristan, The Trobairitz, Marie-Catherine Desjardins de Villegier, Simone Weil, Monique Wittig, and Marguerite Yourcenar.

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