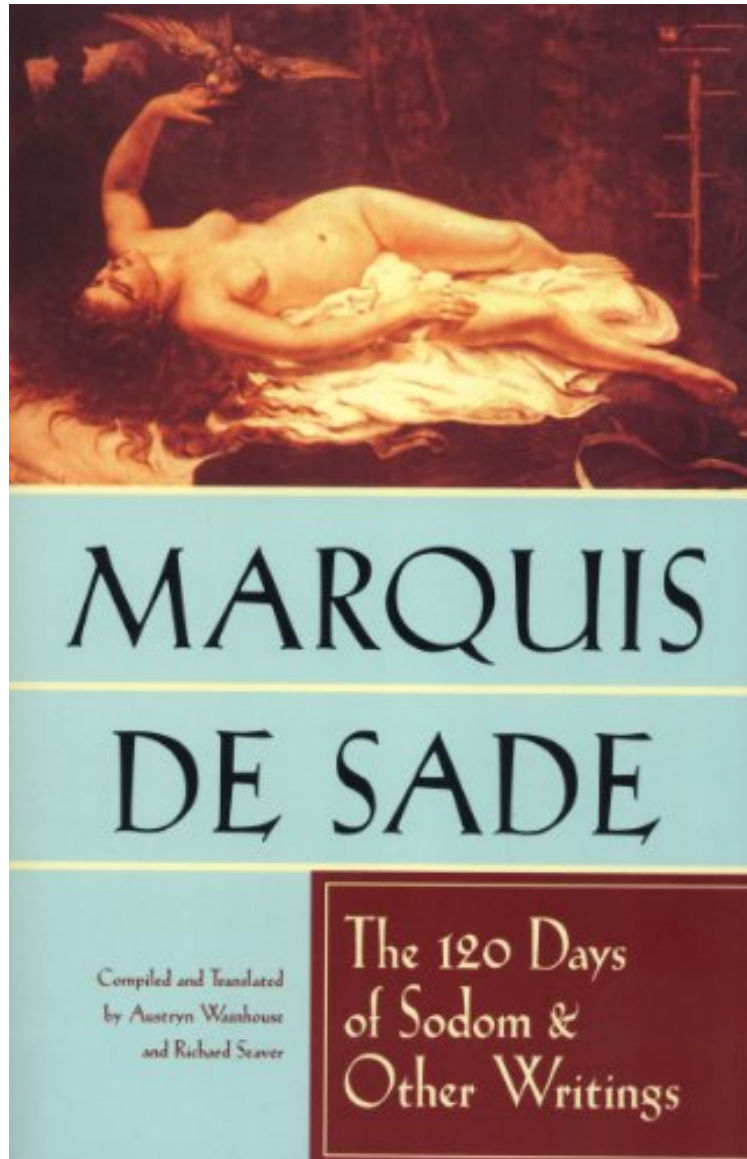


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## The 120 Days of Sodom and Other Writings

*Von Marquis de Sade*  
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**Von Marquis de Sade : The 120 Days of Sodom and Other Writings** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The 120 Days of Sodom and Other Writings:

Kundenrezensionen Hilfreichste Kundenrezensionen 2 von 2 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich.  
Disgusting and Horrifying Von David Leeson The Marquis de Sade's The 120 Days of Sodom is the most disgusting and horrifying work of fiction that I've ever read. The story is simple: four eighteenth-century French libertines spend an entire winter in an isolated chateau, cut off from the outside world, listening to fantastic tales of sexual violence and

perversion, then acting out these fantasies on a helpless group of sex slaves. It's not much of a story, actually: there is no plot or character development, and by the end of the book de Sade has discarded narrative altogether, simply listing each day's atrocities, one after another. He concludes *The 120 Days* with a chillingly matter-of-fact tally of casualties and survivors, which reads like a report from the Commandant from a Nazi concentration camp. Now that it's over, I'm extremely ambivalent about *The 120 Days of Sodom*: it's a remarkable book, but I'm not sure that it's a very good book. Many of the previous reviewers have praised *The 120 Days of Sodom* as a work of philosophy, but all I found was the occasional philosophical aside between sex scenes. The 'sex' in those scenes is brutal and grotesque, and the explicit depictions of coprophilia in particular made me ill. (The reviewer who described this as "pretty tame stuff" was simply posturing.) The critical essays by de Beauvoir and Klossowski at the start of the book assured me that de Sade made a serious philosophical point with this novel, but whatever this point was, it escaped me: there was more philosophy in de Sade's brief "Dialogue between a Priest and a Dying Man" than in all the hundreds of pages of this novel put together. Perhaps de Sade's other novels, *Justine* and *Juliette*, are more reflective. To be fair, I should mention that, in addition to *The 120 Days of Sodom*, this edition also contains a play by de Sade and some short stories from *The Crimes of Love*, which were considerably easier to read and more entertaining than the novel itself. There is also an interesting essay on the history of the novel and some amusing correspondence between de Sade and one of his critics.

1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Decent De Sade Von Ein Kunde *The 120 Days of Sodom* is probably the worst book I have read by the Marquis de Sade. This is probably a great compliment to him as a writer because the book is still very good. *The 120 Days* is the book that is usually known as De Sade's masterpiece, although he personally preferred *Justine*, a better story. Anyway, the story is simple. Several wealthy libertines take a retreat to a secret castle to engage in sinister acts. Their victims are specially chosen people who suit their particular tastes and in most cases have been abducted to get there. The story takes place over 30 days in which the libertines engage in every sexual indecency you can think of. The punishments for those who do not perform adequately are violent and cruel and the book could easily be the most evil story ever conceived. This should not be a deterrent for any mature reader. Those who want to spite De Sade will have an easy time taking shots at the sexual superficialities of the book. Anyone who tries to read and understand the book will discover it to be rich in ingenious philosophical ideas. *The 120 Days* is, admittedly, an arduous task to get through and is not De Sade's best work. The story unfortunately is predictable juggling sexual escapades with philosophical matters. De Sade's best work remains *Eugenie de Franvale*, *Philosophy in the Bedroom* and *Justine*. The short work in this book entitled *Florville de Courval* is the best part of the collection and makes the book worth buying instantly. It tells the tale of a poor woman whose life has been plagued by misfortune, a theme dealt with in *Justine*. Her misfortunes accumulate at the end into the ultimate in ironic finales. The story is only 75 pages long but is brilliant in every sense. De Sade is a great, if not misunderstood writer. The quality of the language and the conviction of his philosophies prove that to anyone who has ever dared to honestly read one of his books. Do not be afraid of the man's reputation. He is a smart man and if you give the guy the chance he'll prove it.

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Funny, Curious, Childish and then downright Boring.... Von Ein Kunde The preview to the actual text is quite interesting and the reason I even gave the book 2 stars. If the reader approaches this as an unfinished manuscript with at least 1/2 of it in draft form then this is not a bad book and I could even give it 3 stars. I would like to think that Sade did his manuscript in outline form to get the scenes etc. but may have originally thought to break it up into a series of short stories as opposed to one big novel. It reads that way and certainly would have been in keeping with the times and Sade's need for a steady income flow. Even he knew the monotonous, repetitious nature of the lewd acts would bore anyone reading it as a novel. I suspect since he was in prison it was a good way for him to compile his thoughts. I also don't know why everyone thinks that just because he wrote all this crazy stuff he necessarily wanted to do it. His predisposition was towards sodomy and selfishness not murder. It's like we would go around saying geez I think Stephen King and Dean Kootnz really want to murder people in the most hideous way since they write so much about it. I also find it hard to buy into the notion that Sade was going to use this manuscript of boring, boring, boringggggggggg..... sadism as a means to justify his lifestyle. He just liked to shock because it sold then like it sells now.

**Kurzbeschreibung** The Marquis de Sade, vilified by respectable society from his own time through ours, apotheosized by Apollinaire as "the freest spirit that has yet existed," wrote "*The 120 Days of Sodom*" while imprisoned in the Bastille. An exhaustive catalogue of sexual aberrations and the first systematic exploration -- a hundred years before Krafft-Ebing and Freud -- of the psychopathology of sex, it is considered Sade's crowning achievement and the cornerstone of his thought. Lost after the storming of the Bastille in 1789, it was later retrieved but remained unpublished until 1935.