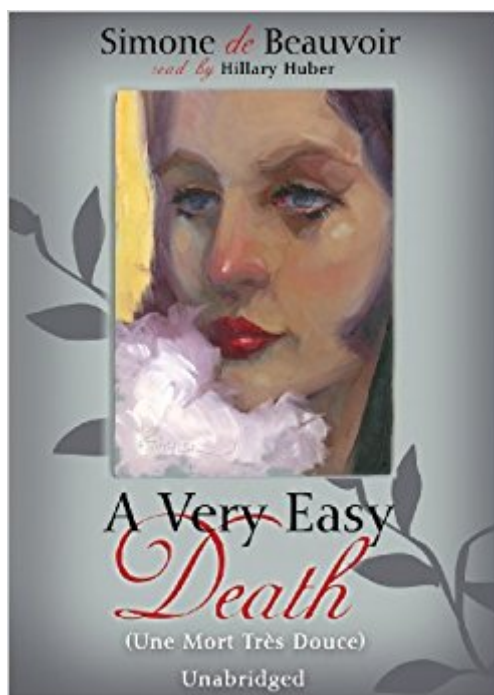


The book was found

A Very Easy Death



Synopsis

When her mother was in the hospital with terminal cancer, Simone had time to reminisce about her mother's early life, as Simone and her sister, Poupette, prepared to face the decision of whether to prolong a life when it is full of suffering. Like most people, they believed that it would be better to die than to continue to suffer, but their mother had a very different view of the matter. Francoise de Beauvoir had finally found happiness in her life, and she truly believed she could find happiness in her own suffering. Considered by many to be the master work by Simone de Beauvoir, *A Very Easy Death* focuses on death and the other limitations in one's life and with what attitude one approaches them. Through her mother's beauty, her smile, and her pride in her life and in herself, Simone learned that to be human and to have individual choice are the most important aspects of existence.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

“This book is written with restrained emotion and a literalness, a faithfulness to fact, that is very moving coming from a woman whom we have known as dedicated to abstractions. This is a difficult book to read as it must have been a difficult book to write . . . Unsparing in its depiction of a human being in her inevitable encounter with extinction, it illustrates the general tragedy of the human condition through a particularized instance. A book of near despair, yet dignified.”
—Library Journal --This text refers to an alternate Audio CD edition.

Text: English, French (translation) --This text refers to an alternate Audio CD edition.

I had never read any of De Beauvoir's work before this one, though I certainly had heard of her pivotal Feminist work, "The Second Sex." This memoir is a painful, but necessary read which focuses on De Beauvoir's painful experiences of watching her mother's decline and death. De Beauvoir's writing is brutally frank as she describes her mother's death with devastating accuracy. Death is never pretty and De Beauvoir's language is full of the ugliness of death, but gentle at the same time. A must-read for anyone who is going through the process of watching a family member die.

I am taking a class on death and this is one of the required readings. I found it well written and a fairly easy read since it's short, but even with the small size, it tends to drag on at times. My biggest disappointment is that I didn't really learn anything about the author. It's like she's holding us at arms-length the whole time.

There was something very adolescent about the writing style that turned me off. That being said, I respect and like De Beauvoir's work but this book did not meet my expectations.

She writes about her mother's prolonged, difficult, painful death with this ironic title.

Think: dealing with Death and Dying of loved one "For indeed, comparatively speaking, her death was an easy one. "Don't leave me in the power of the brutes." "It all boils down to have an operation and perhaps live a bit longer or euthanatize and be done with it. The subject is death and dying is a main theme of Existentialism, as it deals with the individual and reality. Simone de Beauvoir's mother is 78 and lives alone -- by choice. She has broken the main femur (A bone of the leg situated between the pelvis and knee in human beings. It is the largest and strongest bone in the body. Also called thighbone.). While in the hospital, it is discovered that this is the least of her problems, as she has peritonitis, a blockage in her intestine, a tumor, cancer. She will surely die (almost immediately) without an operation. Simone must decide. Very well written, A Very Easy Death takes place over a 4 week period -- that is how long de Beauvoir's mother lived, after the operation -- cramming as much life and reality between the book covers as possible, without being sappy or tedious. "I thought of all those who have no one to make that appeal: what agony it must be to feel oneself a defenceless thing, utterly at the mercy of indifferent doctors and over-worked nurses. No hand on the forehead when terror seizes them; no sedative as soon as pain begins to tear them; no lying prattle to fill the silence of the void." This book is about as real as it gets!

--Katharena Eiermann, 2006,, the Realm of Existentialism -- Presidential Hopeful

A great piece by a woman who shares the intimate details of a journey through death and life.

This is so moving and honest and specific in its examination of how death and dying can affect perception and relationships. Sad, surprising and starkly real. I loved it.

Good book but I didn't really like the characters. Insightful into one woman's connections with her daughter.

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