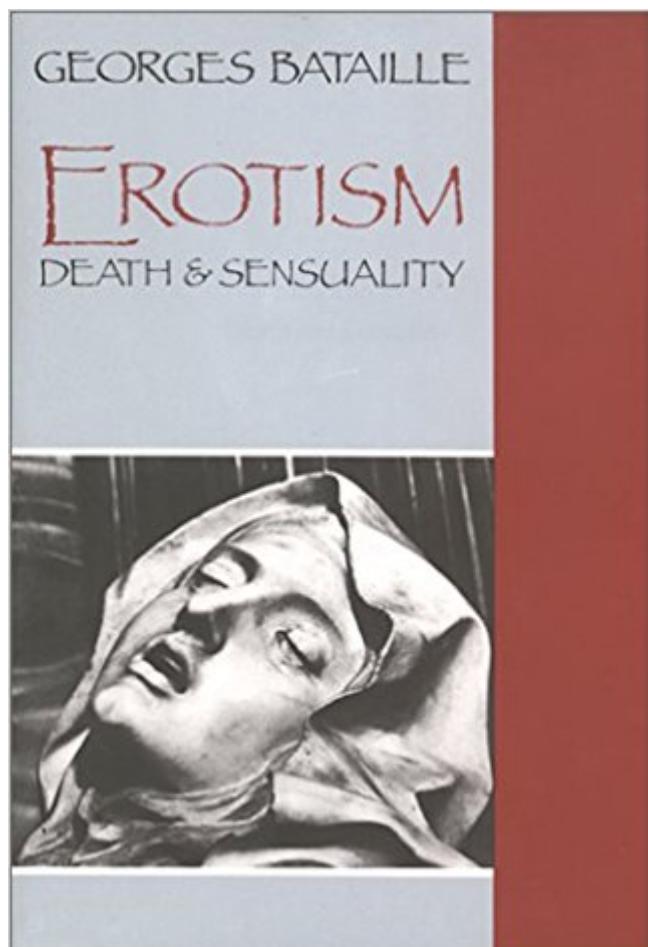


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# Erotism: Death And Sensuality



## Synopsis

Taboo and sacrifice, transgression and language, death and sensuality; Georges Bataille pursues these themes with an original, often startling perspective. He challenges any single discourse on the erotic. The scope of his inquiry ranges from Emily Bronte to Sade, from St. Therese to Claude Levi-Strauss and Dr. Kinsey; and the subjects he covers include prostitution, mythical ecstasy, cruelty, and organized war. Investigating desire prior to and extending beyond the realm of sexuality, he argues that eroticism is "a psychological quest not alien to death." . . . one of the most original and unsettling of those thinkers who, in the wake of Sade and Nietzsche, have confronted the possibility of thought in a world that has lost its myth of transcendence."--Peter Brooks, *New York Times Book Review*"Bataille is one of the most important writers of the century."--Michel Foucault"[An] urgent, thrusting book about love, sex, death and spirituality by Georges Bataille."--Mark Price, *Philosophy Now*Georges Bataille (1897-1962) was a French intellectual and literary icon who wrote essays, novels, and poems exploring philosophical and sociological subjects such as eroticism and surrealism. City Lights published more of Bataille's works including *The Impossible*, *The Tears of Eros*, and *Story of the Eye*.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Text: English, French (translation)

This book is amazing! Be warned it is highly complex and the author likes to use difficult style and

vocabulary. Nonetheless, I have truly enjoyed this book. I highly recommend it.

very satisfied

Bataille is severely not known for his work (maybe well-known in the philosophy world.) The emotional connection between death and sex is explored here as well as the political philosopher the Marquis de Sade, although in a more academic fashion.

I bought this book for my daughter. She like it!

Yes!

If I had to pick one book for the Bataille newbie, it would be this one. *\*Erotism\** puts forth the crux of Georges Bataille's critical thought in what is its clearest and most forthright expression. Here the man once called "the theoretician of evil" lays out for the educated layman his controversial and challenging views of the interrelationship of sexuality, violence, taboo, suffering, mysticism, and death. Most of the major ideas found in Bataille's more complicated philosophical works such as *\*The Accursed Share\** are distilled here, as well as the philosophical underpinning of the infamous novels *\*Madame Edwarda\** and *\*The Dead Man.\** Bataille is always perversely entertaining, if sometimes frustrating, having a facility to cast even the most lurid subjects in a language that can render pornography intellectually impenetrable. The problem is partly due to the fact that Bataille's main concern is to elucidate what he calls "extreme states of being," those experiences at the very limit of human possibility such as orgasm, visions, and death--phenomenon that philosophy has traditionally left out of the equation when considering human life. Because these extreme experiences are often irrational--or transcend rationality, as Bataille would prefer it--they usually fall outside the natural scope of philosophy, as well as language itself. Bataille, who tries to write about these inner states on the outer edge, can only do so by ultimately failing, which he readily acknowledges is necessarily the fate of anyone who tries to express the inexpressible. In *\*Erotism,\** Bataille, for the most part, confines himself to saying what can be said before it becomes unspeakable and that's what makes this book so much more readable than most of his other texts. Taboo as that which sets us apart from the animal and yet is meant to be transgressed in order that we may know the sacred. Sacrifice as a communal "crime" by which we contemplate the deathless state of continuity that is death itself. Work as the dike that keeps humanity from being swept away

in a flood of sex and violence. Bataille follows the red thread that zig-zaggedly stitches together man's age-old fascination with sexual transgression and violent death. From the cave paintings of prehistory to the novels of Sade, from Saint Theresa's pseudo-sexual ecstasy to the Kinsey Report, the result is a wide-ranging and fascinating re-interpretation of the religious instinct in man from the point of view of our mortal obsession with filth and degradation. What Bataille has wrought is a philosophy of "evil" that itself is a thing of transgression, overturning much of what we thought we knew about morality, love, civilization, god, and all the rest of it, but most of all ourselves. A sort of primer to Bataille, *\*Erotism\** can be used as a skeleton key to access the treasures locked away in his more inaccessible works. A must-read for any philosophically inclined renegade interested in sex and death, *\*Erotism\** justifies your morbid penchant for the corrupt and obscene. You really shouldn't have another orgasm without being cognizant of the insights to be found in this life-warping and mind-bending book.

I'd not enjoy at all

A gift that was ask for by my granddaughter. As near as I know she likes it very, very much.

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