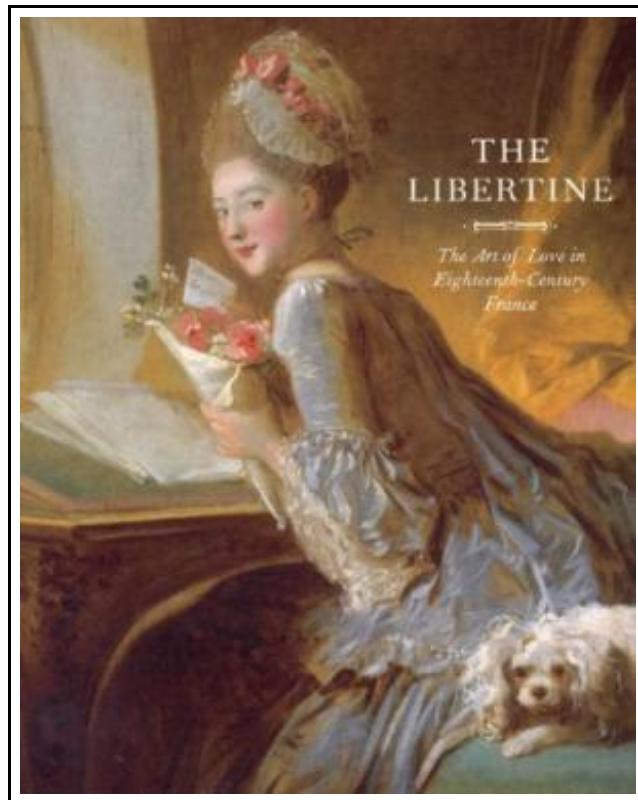


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Abbeville Press, New York, London, Paris, 2013. Hardcover. Book Condition: New. 496 pages. Hardcover with dustjacket. New book. LOVE. A lavishly presented tasting menu of excerpts from eighteenth-century libertine literature, expertly paired with delectable period artworks. Delon's anthology. display[s] the dazzling breadth and depth of the 18th-century obsession with pleasures of the flesh. Certainly "The Libertine" is as lavish as with its sumptuous illustrations of luscious Rococo nudes and other toothsome lovelies as an 18th-century ball masquerade. But Delon's analogy understates the dizzying diversity of the ball's invitees. Priapic peasants, depraved duchesses, masked miscreants, sexy sylphs, coy mistresses, foot fetishists, human sofas (!) and a surprising abundance of naughty nuns: These raunchy revelers engage in one decadent mating dance after another, tirelessly chasing "it," and gamely explaining why it matters. -- The New York Times The Libertine is the most seductive book published this year. -- Playboy "The Libertine" is the most seductive book published this year. -- Playboy Prepare to be seduced by "The Libertine", a swoon-worthy tome that celebrates the French practice of amour. A parade of frolicking lovers gorgeously reproduced. -- Newsday, 2013 holiday gift guide selection "That which both sexes then called 'love' was a kind of commerce that they entered into, often without inclination, where convenience was always preferred to sympathy, interest to pleasure, and vice to feeling." Thus did one novelist describe the spirit that pervaded the twilight years of the Ancien Régime, the heyday of the libertine. Today this word typically evokes the excesses of a Sade or the cruel manipulations of Dangerous Liaisons, but the game of love, as the jaded French aristocracy played it, was most often characterized by a refinement of speech and manner, a taste for nuance over forthright assertion that finds its counterpart in the paintings of Fragonard...

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