Adultery In The Novel: Contract And Transgression

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In this essay, I would like to challenge the view of the adultery novel: the transgression is not a source of gossip but rather a...

contract for which marriage is a metaphor.1
Adultery in the nineteenth-century European realist novel has attracted more critical attention than any other theme involving sexual transgression, but many of the questions it raises still lack adequate definition. There are several possible reasons why so few ideas on the subject have won widespread acceptance. First, adultery itself is fraught with such moral and ideological consequence that any kind of consensus, even about its literary representation, will never be easy. Second, the various theoretical paradigms current and competing in literary studies will always produce different read The Romance of Adultery: Queenship and Sexual Transgression in Old French Literature. [REVIEW] Leslie Sconduto - 2000 - The Medieval Review 3. The Romance of Adultery: Queenship and Sexual Transgression in Old French Literature (Review). Noah D. Guynn - 2002 - Substance 31 (2):306-310. Trois Grands Hommes Devant Dieu. For example, Tony Tanner, in his groundbreaking study, Adultery in the Novel: Contract and Transgression (1979), suggests that it is the unstable triangularity of adultery rather than the static symmetry of marriage that is the generative form of Western literature as we know it. Arthur Miller makes perhaps the last expression of family values, in which adultery is significant transgression. In Death of a Salesman (1949) and The Crucible (1953), single acts of adultery form defining moments, not in their action, but in their confession or denial, making protagonists take on new authentic or inauthentic identities that, for Miller, become American archetypes.