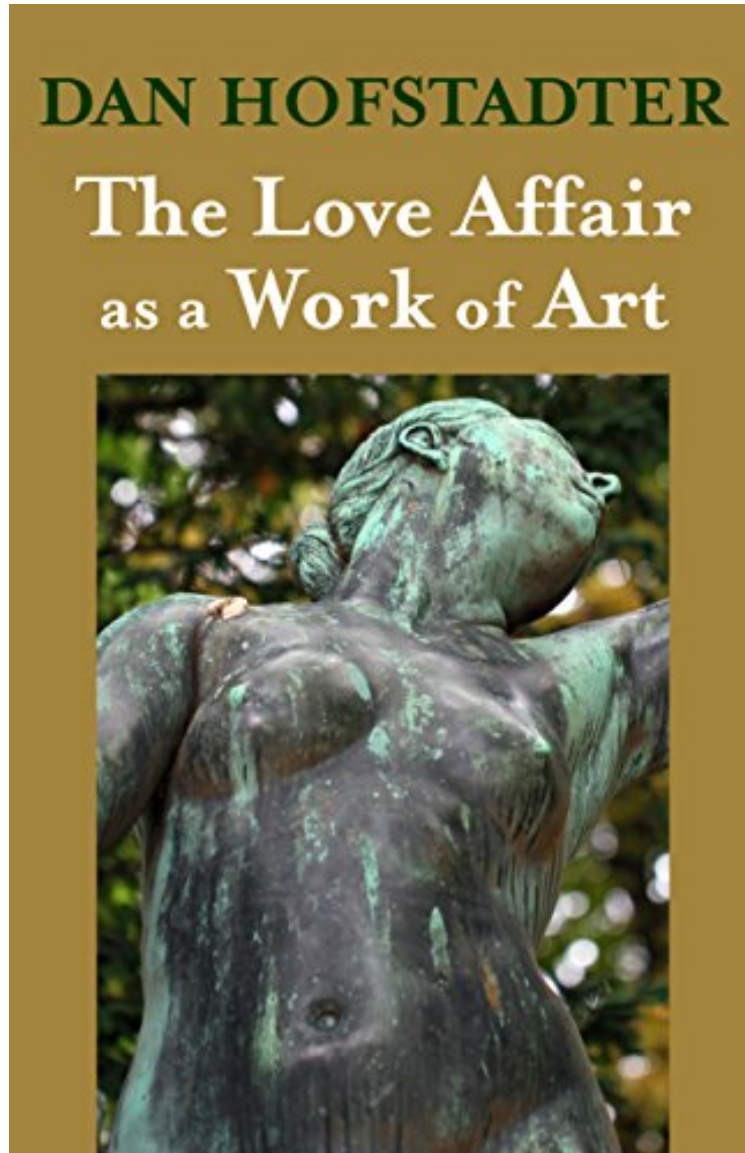


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The Love Affair as a Work of Art

Dan Hofstadter

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Dan Hofstadter : The Love Affair as a Work of Art before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Love Affair as a Work of Art:

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. charmingBy m-starrThis is an unusual book: it has no pretense of scholarly contribution, yet is delightfully literary in a refreshingly casual way. Hofstadter delves insightfully and amusingly into the dynamics of love affairs between literary figures in 19th century France. He explores, sometimes speculatively but never reductively, how these figures' characters and backgrounds played into the ways that their entanglements unfolded, and feels for the links between love, understanding, letter writing, literary inspiration and

creativity, and the social world of the time. Altogether charming ...

This series of entwined biographical sketches recounts how, in the Romantic Era, love affairs, often illicit, were transformed into novels, memoirs, and published correspondences. We make the intimate acquaintance of great writers like Mme de Staël, Chateaubriand, George Sand, and Anatole France, who, however, fall gradually under the suspicion of pursuing their amorous entanglements for "good material." The tale ends with a moving account, based on unpublished sources, of the strange, intense friendship of Marcel Proust and Jeanne Pouquet, the girl who became the model for Gilberte in *Swann's Way*. Disenchanted yet compassionate, this book explores how our affections may be exalted (and at times betrayed) by our desire to refashion them as stories.