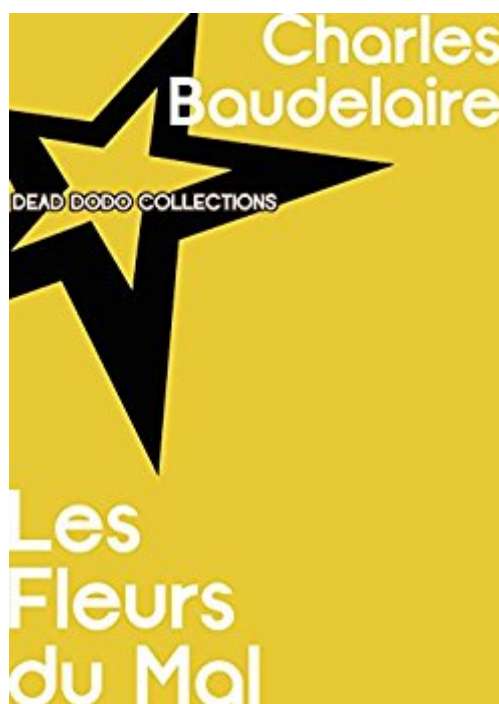


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# The Flowers Of Evil



## Synopsis

The Flowers of Evil (Les Fleurs du mal) is a volume of French poetry by Charles Baudelaire. First published in 1857, it was important in the symbolist and modernist movements. The poems deal with themes relating to decadence and eroticism. The initial publication of the book was arranged in six thematically segregated sections: Spleen et Idéal (Spleen and Ideal) Tableaux parisiens (Parisian Scenes) Le Vin (Wine) Fleurs du mal (Flowers of Evil) Révolte (Revolt) La Mort (Death) Baudelaire dedicated the book to the poet Théophile Gautier, describing him as a parfait magicien des lettres françaises ("a perfect magician of French letters").

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Advantages/features of the New Directions edition:--Diverse translator-palate represented from various repertoires (complete&original ordering).--Inclusion of material censored in the first edition.--Inclusion of preface drafts.--Appearances by high-profile names from the translation world in its era of first publication for this edition (1955).--None of Richard Howard's prose travesties grace this volume. Disadvantages&faults:--Quality, method, ear-for-Baudelaire-magnitude, and command of English varies greatly. Most of the efforts fall on their face (Particularly Kunitz&Lowell: who start

off the volume. Not good.) Among the stronger attempts: F.P. Sturm, C.F. Macintyre, Aldous Huxely (for one poem: Lesbians)--Dated edition, first published in '55. Lowell has a volume of a complete LFDM which attempts to retain the rhyme-scheme and conform to a 10 syllable-per-line basis, as compared to C.B.'s twelve. The result is mostly obtuse, un-lyrical and ponderously banal. His brief appearance in the book (some 10 poems --or not much more) is fortunate. \* \* \*Summary: The New Directions edition recommends itself, given the proliferation of less-than-scholarly efforts whom are transmogrifying permutations on a theme: anything but THE Baudelaire we know in French, in GOOD English! It's the only of its kind that presents LFDM in complete form with the original, together with something approaching intelligent editorship. What is clear from this publisher's effort: the state of translation presented is a very sorry one, though, not the fault of the compilers.

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