

Simone de Beauvoir

Simone de Beauvoir is a prominent writer and feminist who was awarded the prize Goncourt in 1954 for her novel **Les Mandarins** (The Mandarins). She passed away in April 1986 in France.

Born in Paris on 9 January 1908 into a middle-class Catholic family. She studied philosophy at the elite Ecole Normale Superieure and at the Sorbonne where she obtained her post-graduate degree at the age of 21. She was the youngest ever in France to pass this examination. Later she started teaching at a Lycee in Marseilles. In 1929 she met *Jean-Paul Sartre* at the Ecole Normale, *Sartre* suggested that their relationship was «necessary» and this relationship lasted till the death of *Sartre* in 1979. Her life and books have been an inspiration for women around the world, especially her book *Le Deuxieme Sex* (The Second Sex). This book is a massive overview of women's subordination. It was published in 1949 and was acclaimed all over the world.

Thousands of women wrote to her on the issue of women's rights. In 1970 she joined the French women's liberation movement. In 1971, she signed the Manifesto of 343 as one of the 343 women admitting to an illegal abortion. Before 1970, she saw feminism as only reformist and legalistic; but in 1972 she declared herself a militant feminist and revised her belief that socialism alone would resolve women's subordination. Two years later, she was elected President of the French League of Women's Rights.

Publications

- 1941 — *L'invitee* (She Came To Stay).
- 1945 — *Le Sang des Autres* (The Blood of Others).
In the same year she founded with *Sartre*, the journal «*Les Temps Modernes*».
- 1946 — *Tous Les Hommes Sont Mortels* (All Men Are Mortal).



- 1948 — *L'Amerique Au Jour le Jour* (America Day by Day).
- 1949 — *Le Deuxieme Sex* (The Second Sex). An overview of Women's subordination.
- 1954 — *Les Mandarins* (The Mandarins).
- 1957 — *La Longue Marche* (The Long March).
- 1958 — *Memoires D'une Jeune Fille Rangee* (Memories of a Dutiful Daughter).
- 1959 — *La Force de l'Age* (The Prime of Life).
- 1963 — *La Force des Choses* (The Force of Circumstance).
- 1964 — *Une Mort Tres Douce* (A Very Easy Death).
- 1968 — *La Femme Rompue* (The Destroyed Woman).
- 1970 — *La Vieillesse* (Old Age).
- 1972 — *Tout Compte Fait* (All Said and Done).
- 1973 — Publication of a feminist section in *Les Temps Modernes*.
- 1981 — *La Ceremonie des Adieux* (Adieux — A Farewell to Sartre).
- 1983 — *Lettres Au Castor et a Quelques Autres* (Letters to Castor — (his nickname) — and to some others).