

A Woman, in Bed

— by Anne Finger —



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"Finger's writing about the female body—not the experience of looking at it but the experience of having one—is visceral. And it is that body—lush, pregnant, starving, aging, ailing—that is the driving force of Simone's life. ...the book's originality, and its boldness, makes it impossible to turn away. Ambitious and demanding; one of a kind."

—Kirkus Reviews



"This sweeping novel tracks Simone from young motherhood to old age, from the Roaring 20s in Paris, from World War II and the Resistance, to the Paris student riots of 1968—from youthful lust and sex to disability and sex as Simone nears death. I have not before encountered a character as trustworthy and unsentimental to guide me through the 20th century. Bravo to Anne Finger for giving us this wonder of a woman, Simone."

—Connie Voisine, author of *Calle Florista*

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Fiction / \$16.95



Simone Melville *Slept with Strangers:*

A slim-hipped boy with a hairless chest who might otherwise have died a virgin.

An English parachutist who appeared in the sky as a smudge of grey which resolved itself into the triangle of his silk parachute, the shape of a man dangling from it.

A woman with whom she happened to be sharing a railway carriage when their train got stuck—it was whispered that the Resistance had blown up the tracks ahead or the train was being held up by German troop movements.

A philosopher whose frenetic body was inextricably linked to his genius.

Her husband Jacques, to whom she was married for many decades—a marriage which followed a twelve-year “engagement,” as they referred to it, with a wink.



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My son, Max Finger, and his girlfriend, Lindsay Stanley, have filled my life with love and happiness beyond measure.



"The germ of *A Woman in Bed* came to me while I was listening to a broadcast on NPR about the author of the novel, *The Story of O*, a novel about sado-masochism that was a *succès de scandale* in mid-twentieth century France. *The Story of O* was written as a love letter by Anne Desclos for Jean Paulhan. Asked about Paulhan's wife, the woman being interviewed said, casually, 'Oh, she was an invalid,' as if it were impossible to imagine 'an invalid' having an erotic life. This novel is my attempt to imagine the unimaginable."

—Anne Finger