

Catherine Texier - BREAKUP

BREAKUP is the erotically charged chronicle of the tempestuous final months of an eighteen-year romantic and literary partnership, self-destructing in the aftermath of the ultimate betrayal. Fearlessly and courageously, Texier chronicles the end of that love as it is wrecked by infidelity and deceit in a literary tour de force reminiscent by turns of Marguerite Duras and Henry Miller. Texier writes in harrowing detail about the powerful sexual relationship she shared with her husband even during their breakup, how sex between them became a substitute for real intimacy, and how the fabric of a marriage (a shared cup of café au lait on a yellow table every morning, the memories of giving birth to two glorious daughters, of co-editing their own literary magazine) is brutally dissolved. Breakup is unsentimental and unflinching, a journal of love's exquisite torture. Every emotion, including rage, disgust, self-pity, hatred, sympathy and jealousy, is mined. Heartbreaking, too, is the effect of the breakup on Texier's two children, who, sometimes caught in the crossfire of their parents' turmoil, are trapped as the relationship spirals out of control and their once-secure home becomes a battlefield.

Ultimately, Breakup is about the risks one great passion involves. It is a journey of the heart in all its wild beating ; a courageous diary of a soul laid bare, and the redemptive power of love.

Excerpted reviews:

"*Breakup* is one of the angriest and most honest books I have ever read. I found it, by turns, disturbing, exhilarating, mesmerizing, and always utterly impossible to put down." Anne Lamott, author of *Bird by Bird* and *Crooked Little Heart*.

"*Breakup* is an achingly true and uncomfortable bare account of the pain that only love- long, fruitful, complicated loved- can inflict. But the surprise in Texier's recollection of the end is her generosity of spirit, her soul-mining attempts to understand and empathize with the man who is betraying her and to even imagine the position of the dreaded other woman. With direct, immediate prose, meted out like bulletins from the frontlines of heartbreak, Texier takes the story of a woman scorned and turns it into the memoir of a human triumphant - and delivers an unputdownable book at the same time." Elizabeth Wurtzel, author of *Prozac Nation* and *Bitch*.

"*Breakup* reads less like an American memoir and more like an intimate European novel. The details of Texier's unraveling

love affair of a marriage are perfectly recognizable. She tells her story – the erotic couplings, the intellectual and emotional uncoupling – in a language that mirrors the narrator's state of loss. The beauty of this work is that Texier never regrets having loved so well." Whitney Otto, author of *How to Make an American Quiet* and *The Passion Dream Book*.

"In *Breakup*, a diary becomes a shield, a weapon, a witness. The memoir's real subject, though, is the erotics of loss, the white heat of sexual passion as a marriage burns. Raw and unflinching, *Breakup* is sure to stir fierce discussion about the politics of obsession within a marriage (and the role a private diary plays in catching it all)." Alexandra Johnson, author of *The Hidden Writer*.

"Reading this book is equal to an act of voyeurism, and as with all such acts, ultimately we read to see if we can recognize ourselves. Texier's book/diary of betrayal is an open, emotional account of our deepest fears as women, as lovers, and, ultimately, as humans." Lucy Greayl, Author of *Autobiography of a Face*.

"Extraordinary, one of the best things I have read this year." Marianne MacDonald, Observer (London)

"Powerful – illegitimate... as good as Elizabeth Smart's classic, *By Grand Central Station I sat Down and Wept*... as good as Nora Ephron's *Heartburn*... a work that stands as a definitive statement of love and loss in this age of therapy. [It deals] with exquisite personal pain, of a kind I'd thought women no longer felt... elegantly, poetically written." Fay Weldon. The New York Observer

"Savage as samurai, inexorable as Greek tragedy, this searingly open, sweet-sour journal from a French-born New York writer charts the end of her eighteen-year marriage... Texier's revenge is assured. From the sound of him, he'll never write a book as potent or humming-bird brilliant as this." Ruth Padel. Mail on Sunday (London)

"Read this book and then shelve it next to Elizabeth Smart's *By Grand Central Station*. "Evening Standard (London)

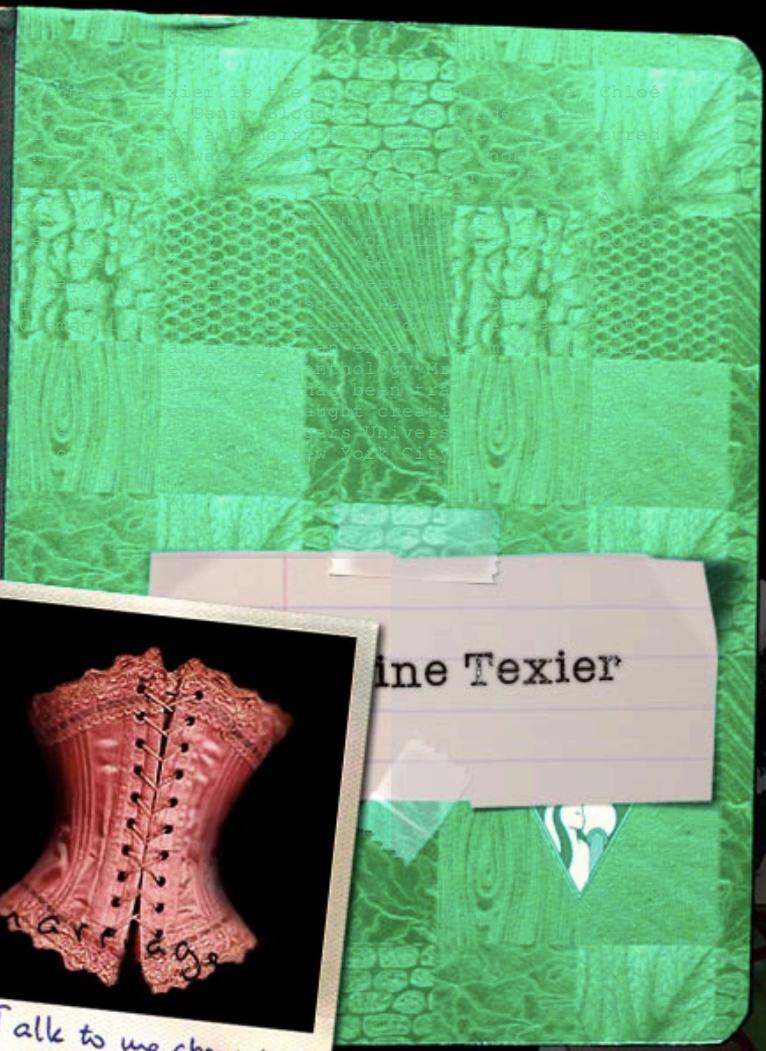
"The most extraordinarily riveting documentary of a marriage gone wrong... a book which – rare among contemporary American memoirs – feels true." Joanna Cole. The Times (London)

<http://www.catherinetexier.com/>

http://www.catherinetexier.com/catherine_texier_breakup.html

Q&A with Catherine Texier:

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Talk to me about love

