

Excess, desire and seduction : Singular relationships between son and mother in *Ma mère* of G. Bataille

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Critics continue to tax *Ma mère*, the last, unfinished novel of Georges Bataille, primarily due to its explicit depictions of incest. However, an analysis of the singular relations between Pierre, the narrator, and his mother, Hélène will allow us to read this novel in a new angle.

In *Ma mère*, the desire of lovers, especially that of Hélène, whose desire culminates in losing herself in death, is realized in the act of a singular seduction. Hélène tries to induct her son, pious to the point of dreaming of entering religion, into the world of corruption and death to which she belongs. At the climax of seduction, at the instant (of sharing) a death which allows for full communication, the novel presents the reader with a moment of “laugh” which transcends the frontier between the “possible”, utilitarian world, and the “impossible”, prodigal world.