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***Femicide across Europe***

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*Is the femme fatale a literary example of femicide?*

Since at least the early 18<sup>th</sup> century, with the rise of the modern European novel, the woman whom the fictional protagonist loves often suffers death at the hands of the hero. In the French confessional narrative, which began in the early Romantic period and continued into the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the woman is always somehow at fault for the protagonist's failure, whether by loving him too little or too much, and he tells his tale of woe to another man (the frame-narrator) in a mixture of mourning and bitterness. Thus the heroine both dies again and is revived, to be contained – in both senses – in the text. The figure of the femme fatale, supposedly the cause of the violence done by a man in thrall to her, is in fact the first and primary victim of this violence. In this paper, three French texts from three centuries – Prévost's *Manon Lescaut* (1731), Mérimée's *Carmen* (1845) and Gide's *L'Immoraliste* (1902) will be compared for their representation of literary femicide.