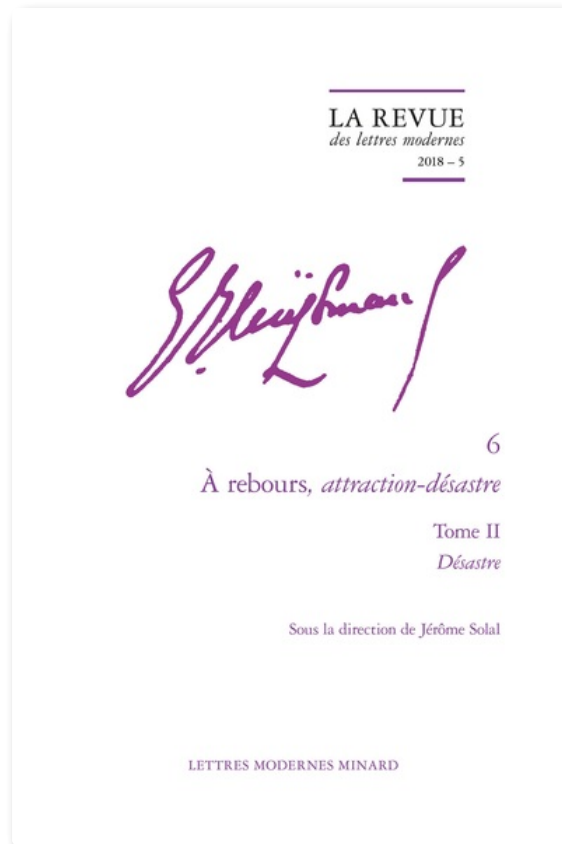




***À rebours*, vie et mort désastreuse d'une tortue**

Publication type: Journal article

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Abstract: What meaning can be given to the enigmatic episode of the tortoise glazed with gold that arrives as a treat and a threat in Des Esseintes' home? Is it a symbolist motif? Anecdotal in appearance, this motif allows the creation of a *mise en abyme* of the "whole" of the novel, referring to the story of a move - like the tortoise, Des Esseintes *is* his house - to one of asphyxiation - like his tortoise, Des Esseintes *suffocates* in his house - to one of a conversion - unlike his tortoise, can Des Esseintes *shed his skin*?

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