



Le Désastre de la femme dans *À rebours*

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Abstract: This article analyzes the role of female figures in *À rebours* and their influence on the life of Des Esseintes. Having chosen a life without outside contact, he uses artifice to fill the absence of social and erotic life. His endeavors are doomed to failure as the search for artifice always brings him back to women, both real and imagined. These reminiscences haunt the protagonist and structure the story of a disaster.

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