



The Staging of possessive individualism?

The Character of the marquise de Merteuil in *Les Liaisons dangereuses* by Choderlos de Laclos

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Abstract: In *Les Liaisons dangereuses*, more precisely in a letter from the Marquise de Merteuil to the Vicomte de Valmont, Choderlos de Laclos sets the scene of an individualistic freedom shaped by self-appropriation. This freedom meets all the conditions of its failure, indeed it ends with its reification. This letter is also a critical representation of individual rationality and highlights certain features and limitations of modern individuality and of exchange relationships.

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