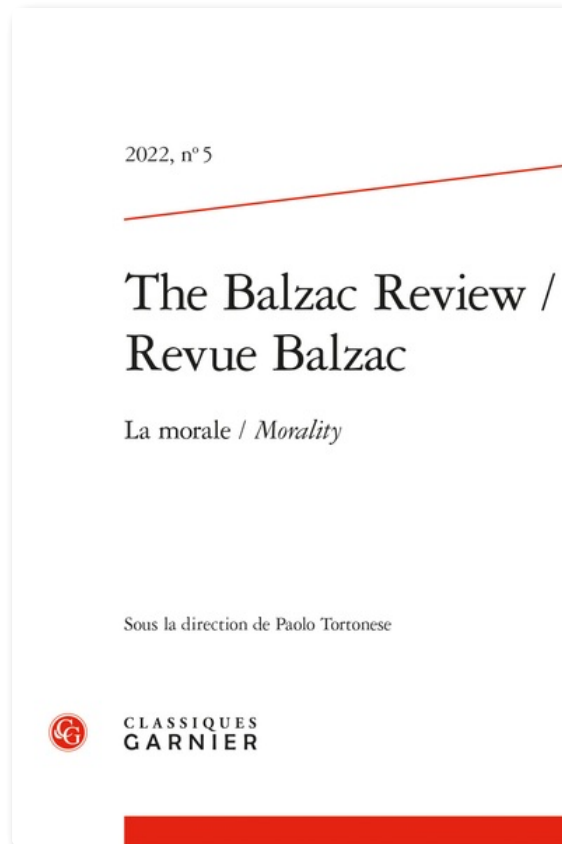




Double Ending and Moral Scandal in Four *Études de mœurs*

Publication type: Journal article

Journal: [The Balzac Review / Revue Balzac](#)
[2022, n° 5. La morale/Morality](#)

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Abstract: This article revisits the inescapable combination of a moment (the ending) and an aim (morality) in order to examine diachronically Balzac's practice of the dénouement based on four *Études de mœurs*. Responsible for the feeling of darkness and pessimism often associated with the second part of *La Comédie humaine*, the logic of the split ending is a way for Balzac to represent the moral scandal that revolutionary society is based upon and which it perpetuates.

Pages: 59 to 78

Journal: [The Balzac Review](#)

CLIL theme: 4027 -- SCIENCES HUMAINES ET SOCIALES, LETTRES -- Lettres et Sciences du langage -- Lettres -- Etudes littéraires générales et thématiques

EAN: 9782406133063

ISBN: 978-2-406-13306-3

ISSN: 2649-2571

DOI: 10.48611/isbn.978-2-406-13306-3.p.0059

Publisher: Classiques Garnier

Online publication: 07-27-2022

Periodicity: Annual

Language: French

Keyword: dénouement, scandal, splitting, pessimism, *Études de mœurs*

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