

# [Simone de beauvoir](https://assignbuster.com/simone-de-beauvoir/)

[](https://assignbuster.com/)[Philosophy](https://assignbuster.com/essay-subjects/philosophy/)

Running Head: SIMONE DE BEAUVOIR, THE SECOND SEX Simone de Beauvoir, The Second Sex   
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
Simone de Beauvoir was one of the greatest French existentialists,   
  
philosophers and writers of last century. She was born on January 9, 1908 in Paris to   
  
Georges Bertrand de Beauvoir and Franoise (ne) Brasseur. Simone de Beauvoir was   
  
one of few philosophers and writers, who got the opportunity to work alongside other   
  
famous existentialists philosophers including Jean-Paul Sartre, Albert Camus and   
  
Maurice Merleau-Ponty. Beauvoir produced a rich corpus of writings including works on   
  
ethics, feminism, fiction, autobiography, and politics. De Beauvoir taught high school   
  
while developing the basis for her philosophical thought between 1931 and 1943.   
  
Following in the tradition of the 18th century 'gadfly' philosopher's, De Beauvoir used   
  
her background in formal philosophy to voice her sentiments on feminism and   
  
existentialism. Her most famous and significant philosophical work is " The Second   
  
Sex (Le Deuxime Sexe)," heralded a feminist revolution and remains to this day a   
  
central text in the investigation of women's oppression and liberation (Mussett, 2006,   
  
para. 1-23).   
  
The Second Sex was written by her in 1949 and in which de Beauvoir traced the   
  
development of male oppression through historical, literary, and mythical sources,   
  
attributing its contemporary effects on women to a systematic objectification of the male   
  
as a positive norm. " The Woman in Love" is one of the chapters of The Second Sex. The   
  
main argument of " The Woman in Love" is the love theme for man and woman and their   
  
conceptions about love. According to Simone de Behavior point of view, both genders   
  
have total different concept of love. For man, love means the total possession of his   
  
beloved while maintaining his identity as a sovereign subject. For woman, 'to love is to   
  
relinquish everything for the benefit of a master. Without a master, a woman is a   
  
scattered bouquet' (Parshley, p. 608). Behavior's argument about love was also supported   
  
by great philosophers like Byron and Nietzsche. She further reiterates that the difference   
  
in conception of love for men and woman, is in accordance with the laws of nature, 'it is   
  
not the individuality of this one or that one which attracts them to think so. According   
  
to her although love plays a very significant role in women life yet it has a very smaller   
  
place in their life and in reality it acts as a mirage and it too late when a woman realizes,   
  
it is too late as her strength has been exhausted in a losing venture.   
  
Simone de Beauvoir expresses that generally women reincarnate their childhood,   
  
adulthood, her dreams and ambitions through love and they expect that love will give   
  
back her family and childhood. Through love she wants to recover a roof over her head,   
  
walls that prevent her from feeling her abandonment in the wide world, authority that   
  
protects her against her liberty. Love sentiment also plays a vital role in reconciling the   
  
majority of women harmonic eroticism and egotism. Although this sentiment on one side,   
  
strongly opposes a woman sexual destiny as it makes herself only a carnal object of   
  
sexual satisfaction- a wild intoxication followed by indescribable disgust and it strongly   
  
challenges her self-worship and self-esteem yet it also acts as a light in darkness, a magic   
  
of eroticism tinged with mysticism and leads to masochism(Parshley, pp. 611-615).   
  
Simone de Beauvoir further adds that the supreme goal of human love, as of   
  
mystical love is identification and total submission with love one and the best pleasure   
  
or happiness of love for a woman in love is to recognize herself as a part her beloved. She   
  
loves to shear his prestige and reigns with him over the rest of world. Unfortunately a   
  
man is not a God and has tendency to commits a mistake or has a false move. And   
  
from this fact are to come the unfortunate torments of woman in love. Additionally any   
  
decline in warmth love sentiment on behalf of her beloved, can turn her to masochistic   
  
madness and all her narcissism can be transformed into self-disgust, into humiliation, into   
  
hatred of herself, which can drive her to self-punishment (Parshley, pp. 615-616).   
  
Simone de Beauvoir also gives her views about total possession of male,   
  
acceptance of his obligations, mutual love and the fundamental difference in the feelings   
  
of both sexes. According to her genuine love out to be founded on the mutual recognition   
  
of two liberties; the lovers would then experience themselves both as self and as other   
  
and together they would manifest values and aims in the world ((Parshley, pp. 620-631).   
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
Bibliography   
  
Mussett, S. (2007). Simone de Beauvoir. The Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy.   
  
Retrieved May12, 2007, from:   
  
http://www. iep. utm. edu/b/beauvoir. htm   
  
Parshley, M. H. (1953). The Woman in Love. (S. de Beauvoir). London: Cape. (Original   
  
work published 1949).