



The Kill (Oxford World's Classics)

By *Émile Zola*

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The Kill (La Curée) is the second volume in Zola's great cycle of twenty novels, *Les Rougon-Macquart*, and the first to establish Paris - the capital of modernity - as the centre of Zola's narrative world. Conceived as a representation of the uncontrollable 'appetites' unleashed by the Second Empire (1852-70) and the transformation of the city by Baron Haussmann, the novel combines into a single, powerful vision the twin themes of lust for money and lust for pleasure. The all-pervading promiscuity of the new Paris is reflected in the dissolute and frenetic lives of an unscrupulous property speculator, Saccard, his neurotic wife Renée, and her dandified lover, Saccard's son Maxime.

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Review

'This new version is welcome.' Times Literary Supplement

About the Author

Brian Nelson, Professor of French Studies, Monash University, Melbourne.

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