



## Ourika: An English Translation (MLA Texts and Translations)

By Claire De Duras

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**Ourika: An English Translation (MLA Texts and Translations)** By Claire De Duras

John Fowles presents a remarkable translation of a nineteenth-century work that provided the seed for his acclaimed novel *The French Lieutenant's Woman* and that will astonish and haunt modern readers.

Based on a true story, Claire de Duras's *Ourika* relates the experiences of a Senegalese girl who is rescued from slavery and raised by an aristocratic French family during the time of the French Revolution. Brought up in a household of learning and privilege, she is unaware of her difference until she overhears a conversation that suddenly makes her conscious of her race--and of the prejudice it arouses. From this point on, Ourika lives her life not as a French woman but as a black woman who feels "cut off from the entire human race." As the Reign of Terror threatens her and her adoptive family, Ourika struggles with her unusual position as an educated African woman in eighteenth-century Europe.

A best-seller in the 1820s, *Ourika* captured the attention of Duras's peers, including Stendhal, and became the subject of four contemporary plays. The work represents a number of firsts: the first novel set in Europe to have a black heroine; the first French literary work narrated by a black female protagonist; and, as Fowles points out in the foreword to his translation, "the first serious attempt by a white novelist to enter a black mind."

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## Ourika: An English Translation (MLA Texts and Translations) By Claire De Duras Bibliography

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### Editorial Review

From [Booklist](#)

*Ourika* is a delightful tale set in France during the French Revolution. Published in 1823, de Duras' novel represents a number of firsts: the first novel set in Europe to have a black heroine; the first French literary work narrated by a black female; and the first serious attempt by a white author to express the feelings of a black character. The story is based on a true account of a Senegalese girl rescued from slavery and raised by an aristocratic French family. When *Ourika* overhears a conversation that makes her aware of her race and the prejudices it produces, her reality is shattered. This revelation causes her to become ill and no longer able to enjoy the lifestyle to which she is accustomed. Her struggle to reject living as a French woman and to exist as a black woman causes her to choose an "invisible" subsistence by removing mirrors and by wearing gloves to cover her hands and dresses to hide her neck and arms. Her desire to be cured causes her to seek medical attention. It is after her visits with the doctor that her "happiness" is restored. This enchanting story will be enjoyed by all. *Lillian Lewis*

### Review

*Ourika* is based on a real story of a Senegalese girl rescued from slavery and raised by a French family during the French Revolution: appearing here as a short translation, this provides in English the first French literary work narrated by a black female protagonist. --*Midwest Book Review*

### Language Notes

Text: English (translation)

Original Language: French

### Users Review

#### From reader reviews:

#### Judy Chisolm:

A lot of people always spent all their free time to vacation or even go to the outside with them family or their friend. Did you know? Many a lot of people spent that they free time just watching TV, or even playing video games all day long. If you wish to try to find a new activity that is look different you can read the book. It is really fun for yourself. If you enjoy the book you read you can spent the whole day to reading a reserve. The book *Ourika: An English Translation (MLA Texts and Translations)* it is very good to read. There are a lot of people that recommended this book. They were enjoying reading this book. If you did not have enough space bringing this book you can buy typically the e-book. You can m0ore effortlessly to read this book from the smart phone. The price is not too costly but this book features high quality.

#### Myron Mendez:

As we know that book is very important thing to add our understanding for everything. By a guide we can know everything we want. A book is a list of written, printed, illustrated or even blank sheet. Every year was exactly added. This e-book *Ourika: An English Translation (MLA Texts and Translations)* was filled regarding science. Spend your spare time to add your knowledge about your science competence. Some

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**Angela Bauer:**

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