

Henry and June: From a Journal of Love: The Unexpurgated Diary of Anais Nin, 1931-1932 Study Guide

Henry and June: From a Journal of Love: The Unexpurgated Diary of Anais Nin, 1931-1932 by Anais Nin

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Plot Summary

Henry and June: From a Journal of Love: The Unexpurgated Diary of Anais Nin, 1931-1932 by Anais Nin, is the journal of famed American writer Anais Nin.

The book had been published previously but had been edited for content. This version of the book is comprised of 274 pages, spanning October 1931 - October 1932. There are no chapters. The sections are only divided by month.

Anais Nin (1903-1977) was an American diarist and author. Nin was best known as a diarist, although there were other works to her credit, including critical analyses and fiction. Nin's journals broke many barriers regarding women and sexuality. Nin was half Spanish (Cuban) and half French but raised in the United States. After Nin's marriage to Hugo Guiler, a banker who later became a filmmaker, the couple moved to Louveciennes in Paris. At the time of the writing, Nin and Guiler had been married for seven years.

Nin had been sick as a child. Nin's physical frailty and desire to please a father that did not want her set the author up to always seek out the approval of men who were similar to her father. This is, in part, what she found in Henry Miller.

Throughout the course of Nin's affair with Miller and others, the author discovered many things about herself, from her desire to submit to a need to explore many things which had been buried, if they had even existed before that time. Nin also engaged in psychoanalysis to discover her true self.

Nin stayed married to Hugo throughout the tumultuous years in Paris when Nin was with Miller and various other men, as well as Miller's wife, June, and other women. The openness of Nin's sexuality allowed her to be freer with herself than she ever had been while experiencing torment and obsession.

The book begins at Louveciennes, the western Paris neighborhood in which Nin and her husband, Hugo Guiler, have taken a home. The first entry details a visit by Eduardo, Nin's cousin and supposed first love.

Because the book is Nin's journal, the events are chronological. There is a clever use of flashback via Nin's mention of previous entries and former relationships. The background is also given through some of the discussions with Miller and Dr. Allendy.

While the journal deals with Nin's burgeoning sexuality and feelings about the main players in the book, i.e., Hugo, Miller, Eduardo, Mansfield, Erskine, and others, the main focus is on specific events that occurred, mainly between Nin and Miller. Also because it is a journal, there are some statements and references that are not entirely clear on their own and the reader is left to guess at their meaning.



Overall, Nin completely captures the year during which she had affairs with Henry and June. At the end of that year, Nin found herself entering into a new phase, perhaps one in which Miller and Mansfield would no longer be an obsession.



Pages 1-52; October 1931- February 1932

Pages 1-52; October 1931- February 1932 Summary and Analysis

The book begins in October 1931 in Paris. Nin's cousin Eduardo comes to visit Nin at Louveciennes. The cousins talked for six hours. Nin had come to the conclusion that she needs a man who is older, one who can teach and guide her; one that will help her to fulfill her deepest desires and needs as a woman. Nin has no plans to leave her husband, Hugo. Nin loves Hugo. It is just that Nin needs more. Eduardo agrees. Eduardo trembles and tells Nin that from the beginning she was meant for him. Instead of being repulsed by the idea, Nin tells Eduardo to wait.

Nin fantasizes about orgies a great deal and realizes that she always wants what she cannot have.

Hugo comes home late for an entire week without a word from Nin. Finally, Hugo objects to the fact that Nin never objects. The pair finds this funny.

Nin's indifference affects Hugo in other ways. Although Nin serves as Hugo's journal and she knows everything about him, Nin keeps part of her life secret in her journal. Hugo feels shut out. The reader may assume that the couple is going through a "seven year itch", or perhaps they have simply grown apart. Each begins to realize that one person cannot fill the other's needs entirely. Nin suggests time apart. Hugo refuses.

Nin speaks once again with Eduardo about her desire for sexual fulfillment. Nin wonders if living through an experience will quench the desire. Eduardo says no, that one desire leads to the next. It comes in layers much like an onion. Nin and Eduardo realize love for each other but put it aside.

November 1931

Nin and Hugo are equal parts happy and miserable. Hugo refers to it as a kind of honeymoon. Nin is puzzled. How can it be a honeymoon with so much arguing and misery? Hugo explains that during this honeymoon, both are overwhelmed by feelings and therefore are off balance. The couple has realized the intensity of a passionate affair inside their marriage.

December 1931

Nin meets Henry Miller. Miller had gone to lunch with Richard Osborn, Nin's attorney for the DH Lawrence book. Nin describes the meeting: "When he first stepped out of the car and walked towards the door where I stood waiting, I saw a man I liked. In his



writing he is flamboyant, virile, animal, magnificent. He's a man whom life makes drunk" (p. 6).

Osborn goes off somewhere and leaves Nin and Miller to talk. They become drunk. Miller offers to go over the proofs for Nin's books. At Miller's place he flirts with Nin, much to the woman's dismay. Nin claims she does not know how to flirt. Miller persists, but Nin pulls away, saying that with her it has to be love. Nin does not love Miller. After all, they had just met.

Nin also wonders if Miller is toying with her, particularly because he is a seasoned writer and Nin is inexperienced.

Nin meets Miller again a few days later. It is surprising to Nin that she thinks she can love Miller. No longer is Nin repulsed by Miller's advances.

Nin discusses Miller's work as well as that of Lawrence Drake, the assistant to her publisher, Edward Titus.

Miller and Nin talk about sensuality. Nin attempts to avoid physical contact with Miller. When Nin says she cannot be involved with him because of menstruation, Miller says that there are other ways. When Nin recoils from fellatio, Miller becomes angry and thinks Nin is simply being coy. Nin says she warned Miller of her inexperience.

Nin also speaks briefly of an affair she had with Drake.

Eventually, Nin feels responsible for having aroused Miller and has sex with him out of pity.

Nin tells Hugo the majority of the story involving Miller. Hugo knows that Nin falls in love with people's minds and worries that he will lose Nin. Nin reassures Hugo.

Nin finishes the book. Although Hugo does not like Lawrence, he admires Nin's work. Nin already has the next project in mind.

The topic of orgies and drink comes up. Hugo feels that the couple could not participate in such things. Neither wants to get drunk and have an encounter for which s/he is not lucid. Neither envies Miller for his lifestyle.

Nin claims that if she were not an artist she would be a faithful wife.

Miller visits Nin at home and the two spend the afternoon talking. Miller stays for dinner after Hugo arrives home. Nin seems to be becoming more interested in Miller and his character. Nin is still concerned that Miller has no idea how innocent she truly is, that posing for painters does not give one experience.

Nin meets June Mansfield, Miller's wife. The women are instantly smitten by one another. Hugo hates Mansfield on sight and Nin assumes that it is jealousy.



January 1932

Nin and Mansfield meet for lunch. Nin is afraid that she has dreamed the existence of Mansfield and is nervous at the meeting. There is no way Nin will be able to eat. Nin is shocked that no one else seems to see the wonder that is Mansfield. Nin sees Mansfield as being quite mad and most everything the woman says is a lie. As the afternoon wears on, Nin realizes that she wants to become Mansfield's protector.

Nin meets with Eduardo after the lunch ends. Nin is frazzled and exhausted by the intensity of the three hour luncheon. Nin is also in a whirl because Mansfield pressed her hand. Nin is completely infatuated with Mansfield and does not seem to mind that the woman seems unable to love or be even the slightest bit sincere.

Hugo's dislike of Mansfield increases. Nin wonders if she is a lesbian. Eduardo says no, that Nin does not hate men. Hugo is reasonable in saying that anything outside the marriage is extraneous, that the couple's relationship is the most important thing.

Mansfield and Nin continue to see each other. Mansfield is more reluctant to yield than Nin, who wants to buy beautiful things for Mansfield even though she cannot afford them. Hugo begins to hate Mansfield in earnest. Miller hates Nin. The women love each other. Nin fantasizes about kissing Mansfield and seeing her body.

The day comes when Mansfield has to go. Nin is devastated and the two women finally kiss.

Nin decides to go away for some rest in Sonloup, Switzerland. Nin includes a letter to Hugo in which she talks about finding her strength. Nin weakens quickly and begs Hugo to arrive as soon as possible.

Nin realizes that the stories told by Mansfield are mysterious and inconsequential. While they may give glimpses into the woman's life, the stories never reveal anything concrete or any type of thread that can be followed. The reader, like Nin, begins to doubt Mansfield's mental stability.

Mansfield objects to Miller's frankness in regards to sensualism and sex. Mansfield sees Miller as being honest and in some way pure. The writing counters those views.

Nin begins to think that Mansfield, while human, has few human emotions. Nin believes that Mansfield only has two emotions: love of Miller and a deep selfless generosity. The latter does not make a great deal of sense considering that Mansfield always seems to be on the receiving end of generosity, particularly when it involves Nin. Regardless, Nin vows to love and immortalize Mansfield.

Although Miller and Nin have a great deal in common, Nin feels that Miller does not really understand her.

February



Nin is back in Louveciennes. Upon arriving home, Nin takes Miller's letters and puts them up on a wall, intending to cover the entire wall with his words. Those words will be the inspiration for a new novel.

Nin learns that while she was away, Hugo found the journal in which Nin recounted her affair with John Erskine. Hugo knew about the affair but the words wounded him.

Nin remarks that to Miller, sex is love.

There is a long passage about Nin's review of Miller's new novel. Nin is taken aback and refers to some of the parts as being staggeringly beautiful.

Nin refers to experiences in Paris but never reveals what happened. Nin does explain how she and Mansfield are able to communicate in their own secret language.

Nin continues to receive letters from Miller every other day.

Nin refers to Henry St. Joint, the place where Miller and Mansfield live, along with Mansfield's lover, Jean. Jean scares Nin.

Nin makes reference to Miller's liberal use of coarse language.

Eduardo visits. Nin talks about how Eduardo was her first love but that she had always fallen for men that were weak, causing her to assume the dominant role.

Nin continues to write passionate letters to Mansfield.



pages 53-107; March 1932

pages 53-107; March 1932 Summary and Analysis

March 1932

Nin meets Miller at the Café de la Rotonde. Nin admits that Miller frightens her with his fierceness and sensuality. Nin is hypnotized.

Nin is torn between Miller and Mansfield. Each offers something different and Nin needs release.

Miller tells Nin that her work shows great possibility.

In Nin's eye, romanticism often outlives reality. The emotions are there long after the practicality has gone.

Miller sees Nin as being fragile and says that she needs a man, not a boy like Hugo.

Nin and Miller continue to write love letters. Nin is happy to finally be able to submit to a man.

Hugo likes Nin's new openness and dotes on his wife. The sex is better. During one of their dinners, Nin escapes to the ladies room to read a letter from Miller. Nin believes that she has become a paradox, two different people and needs two separate lives. Part of Nin wants to combat, the other to submit.

Miller admires Nin's ability to absorb things quickly and to understand. Miller is often absent.

Nin comments that Henry and June had destroyed what she used to see as logic. Nin begins to consider seeing a psychoanalyst upon Eduardo's suggestion as it may offer some psychological resolution.

Eduardo also talks about half measures. While Eduardo is completely devoted to Nin, Nin only gives half measures. Nin attempts to end things with Eduardo.

Nin and Hugo decide to go to an "exhibition." The exhibition turns out to be a place where naked women dance and have sex with one another and/or patrons. While Nin and Hugo choose only to watch, the scene entralls them both.

Previously, Nin would rush home to her journal after any kind of event. Now she writes to Miller. Nin believes she loves Miller at this point, although the woman seems to waffle on that point. Nin is also willing to barter everything.



Perles and Miller are at Place Clichy. Both men want Nin for different reasons. The men beg Nin to spend the night. Nin complies and finds Perles to be jealous when she goes to Miller's bedroom.

Miller still sees Nin as fragile, as something not entirely real. Miller wants to unmask Nin and to own her in every possible way. Nin allows Miller to read her journal and it may have served to inspire Miller to love Nin more.

Eduardo is increasingly jealous of Miller, perhaps even more so since it is apparent that Nin loves him and does not feel the same way about Eduardo. Nin continues to rebuff Eduardo.

Nin has an erotic dream about Mansfield. In the dream, Nin does not seem to satisfy Mansfield, revealing even more of Nin's insecurities regarding the elusive woman.

At Nin's lowest, she takes solace in Hugo's arms.

Perles openly worships Nin. Perles claims that Nin is good for Miller and perhaps Nin loves him more than Mansfield. This brings out Nin's defensive side.

Nin often refers to Miller as Erskine, even though the men are dissimilar.

Nin's brother, Joaquin, reads her journal and is somewhat surprised by the writing in it. It is strange that although Nin wants to keep these things sacred, she invites almost anyone to read the journal. It is perhaps because Nin desperately needs validation.

Once again, Eduardo refers to his sessions with Dr. Allendy. Nin begins to consider seeing the psychoanalyst.



pages 108-144

pages 108-144 Summary and Analysis

April 1932

Miller expresses his dislike of faithless women. There is a definite double standard in that Miller is perfectly all right with living out every fantasy with whatever woman he chooses, yet becomes angry if a woman should want to do the same. It is clear that Miller wants to possess Nin as well as Mansfield. There are also other relationships that seem to be equally intense.

In this entry, Nin claims that while both Hugo and Miller need her, if there was a time she would be forced to make a choice, Hugo would be the one without question.

Hugo is steady while Miller lives like a gust of wind.

Eduardo tells Nin that while she may have loved, she has never submitted to anyone like she has to Miller. Eduardo also fears Nin's journal and the secrets it might reveal about him. Nin agrees to some form of censorship. However, omission equals half-truths and lies.

Nin visits Dr. Allendy to discuss Eduardo and her own relationships. In Allendy's mind, Nin suffers from an Oedipus complex. Nin's father never wanted a daughter. Nin was not pretty, not good enough. Therefore, Nin always seeks out the older wiser man in hopes of gaining her father's love. Allendy also believes that Nin's inferiority - sexual and otherwise - may stem from her physical frailty as a child. It seems clear that Nin needs several men to fulfill her needs - physically, emotionally and spiritually, not analysis.

Joaquin expresses concern that Nin has been losing herself in things that are not hers.

Perles continues to fall in love with Nin and becomes jealous. Perles's love is more pure and romantic rather than the more physical love of Miller. Miller says at one point he does not want Mansfield to return from New York. Shortly after, Nin writes to Mansfield, asking her to come home. Nin desires both.

Hugo goes away on a trip and Nin stays with Miller and Perles at Place Cinchy.

Nin talks about her studio at Louveciennes. The room is filled with the presence and essence of many men, from the books of DH Lawrence to memorabilia from John Erskine to letters and manuscripts from Miller.

One night Perles suggests that they all go to Louveciennes. Nin is thrilled and sees her house in another way. At the house, Nin allows the men to read more of her journals. Nin is wounded when Miller says she is not beautiful and certainly not an angel. This

was not meant to wound but rather to be truthful, as Miller sees other things in Nin, just as he does with Mansfield.

Nin decides that analysis may be what she needs. It is shown that Nin takes on relationships and activities that cause her some kind of pain. This is particularly true with Miller. When something is wrong with Miller, Nin runs to Hugo, and vice versa.

Miller discusses Hugo and how he feels that Nin's husband is inferior. Nin defends Hugo, saying that he is simply inarticulate that it takes a while to get to know him. Miller insists that Hugo is inferior to Nin in all ways, that Nin needs someone older, wiser, and stronger.

It is pointed out to Nin that she has never before given herself wholly to another person. Hugo and Miller have come close in other ways. Nin laments that her love for Hugo has, over the years, become fraternal. However, Nin would never leave Hugo, even though there is a part of her that is starved.



pages 145-213

pages 145-213 Summary and Analysis

May 1932

Nin begins to realize that her journal is a vice, almost a disease. Even when Nin is exhausted, the journal raises her up to a new awareness and often almost a state of frenzy. Nin says that when she has spent hours with Miller and then Eduardo, she should be exhausted but that the journal still grabs and holds her attention.

Nin continues to fret over what she sees as being her masculinity. Nin brings it up to Dr. Allendy, who often feels that Nin is overanalyzing herself. Allendy assures Nin that she is feminine and that she equates femininity with episodes in her childhood. Nin worries about her breasts and shows Allendy, who assures Nin that she is perfectly normal. Allendy does agree that Nin could use some more weight as she is too thin.

Nin continues her deep involvement with Miller and begins to ask herself who is really curing her of her neuroses - Allendy or Miller?

Miller has gone far beyond a sexual relationship and has fallen in love with Nin. Where Miller once felt that sex was love, the author now realizes that he must possess all of Nin. No longer is it just about a physical expression and exploration, but rather about possession and obsession. Miller tells Nin that he wants to own her and to use her. Miller wants Nin to marry him. Nin cannot. Meanwhile, Miller continues to employ the double standard and sees other women, including a dancer and Nin's friend Natasha. For Nin, however, everything and everyone is secondary to Miller. Nin claims that Miller makes her honest in that way.

Miller wonders why Nin loves him so when she gives him everything and he gives her nothing. Nin shows her naivete and blindness by disagreeing with Miller, believing that she takes as much as she gives.

Miller's career and published books have brought him some fame. This is not something that Miller is comfortable with, particularly in what Nin refers to as chic situations.

Perles worries that Nin will be hurt by Miller. Nin claims that loving Miller is making her tougher, and she assures Perles that she will not be hurt. Perles does not believe Nin. The reader can draw the conclusion that Nin has deluded herself in her relationship with Miller.

Nin continues to waffle over her relationship with Hugo. Now she claims that Hugo is not necessary to her that she goes to him for comfort when she is weary. Even Nin's beloved home no longer holds joy with the absence of Miller. She says, "Louveciennes is like a casket, petal-lined, carved, golden, with walls of newborn leaves, blossoms,



neatly raked alleys, names of flowers on sticks, old trees, hoary ivy, mistletoe. I will fill it with Henry" (p. 148).

Nin says she is going to give up her journal and tells Miller that he has killed it. Miller has replaced her obsession with the journal, which she often referred to as her vice, her disease. It was only a few days before Nin had to return to writing in the journal. The author discusses how she is a different person with different people; she's gone from being a gentle motherly type to a fraternal friend and lover to a passionate and sensual woman. Much to Nin's delight, Hugo begins to explore the world of men. Together, the couple lives easily and enjoys one another.

Perles ridicules Miller's sacrilege. June sends a cable saying that she wants to see Nin. Miller worries about June's return. Nin is afraid that June's return will take Miller away from her, that Miller will once again relinquish himself to his wife. Miller is worried that June will take Nin away from him, knowing how his lover is obsessed with his wife's beauty. It seems to be a conundrum because Miller wants both Nin and June, and Nin wants both Henry and June.

Miller tries to tell Nin that it will be different this time.

Nin teases Fred, saying that she should have loved him. Nin talks about spending a couple of days with Fred after spending several with Miller. It is unclear whether Nin is teasing Fred or if there is some real offer in her comments. Later, Miller tells Nin not to torment him so because he is terribly jealous.

Nin shows complete submission when she asks Miller to write in her journal.

Nin continues to see Allendy. In some ways, Nin is seducing the doctor. Nin invites the doctor to Joaquin's piano recital and the man accepts. In discussing Hugo, Allendy remarks that Hugo is much like Nin's child. It has become obvious that Nin seeks a father figure in various men. Allendy also believes that Nin loves Eduardo. Nin agrees to a fraternal love, but doesn't agree that she is in love with Eduardo, as he does not fit her ideal.

Nin comes to the conclusion that Miller has often known possession and passion but not intimacy. Nin no longer enjoys sex with Hugo, but pretends that it is Miller in their bed.

Nin visits a jewelry store on the street and buys two bracelets. To Nin they represent a kind of bondage to Miller and Eduardo.

Nin visits Allendy and tells the doctor that she does not want to be analyzed that she would rather chat. Allendy wonders why Nin does not want to be analyzed. It has become clear to the doctor that Nin continues to make great sacrifices and take risks, yet still does not give all of herself to one person.

There are several entries relating to Nin's appointments with the doctor. There is talk about women and subjugation and how Nin's recent exploration of sensualism is a reaction to many years of deep introspection. Nin talks about the urgent need for sex.



Nin also worries that she does not always orgasm during sex. Allendy says that it is perfectly normal and asks about masturbation. Nin confesses to masturbating on several occasions, but feels that it is in some way morally corrupt and therefore feels shame with the activity.

Nin continues to be a paradox in many ways. Mirroring Miller, Nin often uses bold talk, which Miller objects to because it is the antithesis of Nin. Allendy tells Nin that until she can be completely natural with herself and her sexuality, she will remain unhappy at a core level.

Miller confesses his love and admiration for Nin, and regardless of all of the other women, there is no one that can efface her.

June 1932

Allendy has completely won Nin over to the point where the woman is able to speak frankly about her frigidity. Part of the issue with achieving orgasm with Miller is the fact that Nin convinced herself she was afraid of becoming pregnant. A Russian doctor informs Nin that the only way she could become pregnant is through an operation. Nin realizes that the fear, which had never erupted during seven years of marriage, was simply a defense mechanism.

Allendy and Nin continue a close relationship. Nin trusts the doctor completely and has no problem discussing even the most uncomfortable topics.

Perles continues to undermine Miller's love for Nin. It is not always a conscious effort on Perles's part, but he often insists that Nin deserves much more than Miller is willing to give. Perles believes that Nin deserves a whole love, not a half love. Nin claims that the day she loses Miller will be the day she loses her vulnerability. There will no longer be a need for love, only sex and solitude and work.

The relationship between Nin and Miller begins to change. One afternoon Miller is unable to perform and is incredibly upset. Nin attempts to reassure Miller, saying that it happens to everyone, even women. It's just that women are able to conceal the fact, and men are not. Nin believes that love spoils the act of sex and that it gets in the way. Nin's language becomes coarser and more masculine.

Miller begins to realize that Nin is becoming shameless and strong.

Nin discusses several different occasions when she is out in public with Miller as well as conversations they have.

Nin decides to stop seeing Allendy. The doctor is deeply disappointed, not only because Nin is no longer seeking analysis, but that she will no longer be in his presence. On a personal level, the doctor will miss Nin and her interesting life. At the end of the appointment, Allendy kisses her in a chaste way. Nin wants more, but once again realizes that no one can stir her the way Miller can.

July

Miller begins to think seriously about leaving June. Nin knows that he will not, that June is perfectly suited to his sensual nature. Although the connection between Miller and men is powerful beyond description, that is all they seem to have and eventually the tie will break. Nin says she knows that Miller is destined to lose her. Nin continues to profess her devotion to Hugo.



pages 214-274

pages 214-274 Summary and Analysis

August 1932

Nin has ceased to be moved by Miller's letters. The only thing that is clear to Nin at this point is the fact that Miller has many defects. The defects stand out to Nin and take away from all other things. Perhaps Nin has decided to emotionally return to Hugo. Perhaps it is the physical absence from Miller. Even Nin is not sure. Whatever it is, it serves to make Nin restless beyond belief. Nin smokes and spends time in the garden. Nin does not want to write and feels disconnected. Nin wonders what has happened to her. At this point, Nin cannot stand her own company. There is too much introspection.

Hugo continues to dote and devote himself wholly to Nin. The relationships with other people do not seem to affect Hugo. Nin claims that Hugo's all consuming love and devotion serve to paralyze her.

Miller writes that he cannot wait to see Nin and that when they are together there will be a time of nothing but literature and sex, sex and literature. Miller claims that he is crazy about Nin and that it is torture waiting to see her again. Miller claims that it is not just the sex but the closeness, the love that he needs. Meanwhile Miller sends letters that are twenty to thirty pages long, filled with these thoughts. It will not be long until they can see each other again.

Nin flip flops about Hugo and is generally confused about the marriage.

Nin mentions a trip to Austria but gives few details.

Nin also makes a reference to needing to see Allendy but then the next minute decides that she does not.

Miller goes to Louveciennes and spends four days with Nin. Nin creates a fake letter from John Erskine and pretends to burn it along with other letters. It is a ploy to make Miller jealous, and it works.

There are more comparisons between Nin and Mansfield. Although both have a hold on Miller, it is different. Miller has learned things about Mansfield that show she has not been truthful about the number of lovers she has had in the nine years they have been together. Miller tells Nin that where June is hard and cold, calculating and self serving, Nin is warm and understanding. Miller likes that Nin understands him and his art. Nin also notes that Miller is not nearly as hard as he appears to be on the outside.

The next days and weeks are filled with the possibility of Tropic of Cancer being published. Miller is filled with joy, and Nin is there to share it with him. Nin also reads



parts of the manuscript as Miller supplies them and has ideas on how the book could be even better.

Nin taunts Hugo relentlessly and shows a cold side of herself. Nin sees nothing wrong in letting Miller share their marital bed while Hugo is away. Nin sees herself as becoming insatiable and that she wants nothing more than sex from as many people as will give it to her.

Nin refers to Miller as being full of mental activity. Nin enjoys this side of Miller, and she often refers to him as a genius-beast. Miller tells Nin that she should no longer expect him to be sane.

The four days at Louveciennes prove to be much more than either person expected. Miller later tells Nin that no matter what she thinks or says, there was a marriage that took place at Louveciennes, that they are now married.

The couple travels extensively. Nin never says why or for how long and the reader feels as if the entire experience blends together for Nin as well. The only reason Nin and Miller return home is because they are penniless.

Nin notices something interesting about Miller's memories of other women and relationships. When Miller talks about those relationships, the only things he seems to recall are the woman's defects and sensual characteristics. All else seems to be lost, which shows Miller's state of consciousness and lack of attachment.

The weather has turned particularly hot. Nin asks Hugo if she can invite Miller, Fred and Pauline to Louveciennes. Some shift has occurred between Miller and Hugo, and the men spend the evening talking and admiring one another. In fact, there is one point when the men gang up on Nin. The men say that Nin is one who can completely irritate and puzzle a man.

Miller gives Nin pages of his book to read, and she is eager to share her thoughts on the work in progress.

Miller wonders if Nin is becoming like June in some ways. Miller seems to be combining the two women in his mind. Miller also confesses to being jealous of Allendy.

In one of Miller's sentimental moments, most likely while drunk, he confesses to Nin that he is worried about his father, who is starving. Nin wonders what Miller does with the money she gives to him, if he goes without to take care of his father. Or is it all a lie?

Miller realizes that he wants June to come home but claims that June will have to accept his love for Anais. Meanwhile, the conversations between Nin and Miller regarding June have given Miller insight to write about his wife. Nin feels that Miller is stealing her vision.

Nin begins to realize that because she is an understanding woman, she is expected to understand and accept much more than any other.



Nin writes a long letter of gratitude to Allendy. Nin encloses a part of one of Miller's letters. It supposedly correlates with what Nin is telling the doctor, but Nin confesses that she enclosed it with the hope of making Allendy jealous.

Nin begins to write about June. One night, Nin confesses to Hugo that she does not know how to tell Miller that she no longer loves him.

September 1932

This month is devoted mainly to Nin's end with Allendy and analysis. The two have become involved. Nin attempts to torture Eduardo by confessing the relationship. Eduardo is convinced that Nin and Allendy are trying to make him jealous in order to save him.

Nin knows that analysis is no longer what she needs as Allendy is too soft and compassionate.

October 1932

June returns to Clichy. The end is much like Nin expected. June has recaptured Miller. Miller claims that he still loves Nin more than ever. Nin should never doubt his love.

Nin begins to see Miller through June's eyes. Nin gives in to her passion for June, yet begins to wonder if the things she sees are real. Is the June she knows Miller's vision? Does June cloud Nin's vision of Miller? In the end, Miller ceases to be Nin's lover. Nin has entered yet another phase.



Characters

Anais Nin

Anais Nin (1903-1977) was an American diarist and author best known for the publishing of her journals which broke many barriers regarding women and sexuality. Nin was half Spanish (Cuban) and half French but raised in the United States. After Nin's marriage to Hugo Guiler, a banker who later became a filmmaker, the couple moved to Louveciennes in Paris. At the time of the writing, Nin and Guiler had been married for seven years.

Nin had been sick as a child. Nin's physical frailty and desire to please a father who did not want her set the author up to always seek out the approval of men who were similar to her father. This is, in part, what she found in Henry Miller.

Throughout the course of Nin's affair with Miller and others, the author discovered many things about herself from her desire to submit to a need to explore many things which had been buried, if they had even existed before that time. Nin also engaged in psychoanalysis to discover her true self.

Nin stayed married to Hugo throughout the tumultuous years in Paris when Nin was with Miller and various other men as well as Miller's wife, June, and other women. The openness of Nin's sexuality allowed her to be freer with herself than she ever had been while experiencing torment and obsession.

Nin died in the United States in 1977.

Henry Miller

Henry Miller (1891-1980) was a noted American author. Miller was one to break through literary barriers of the time, marrying fiction with real experiences and philosophical musings. The two books that made Miller famous were "Tropic of Capricorn" and "Tropic of Cancer." Miller was also known for using coarse and primitive language when it came to describing certain things, particularly sex.

Miller traveled to Paris where he met Anais Nin. Miller met Nin at a café when he accompanied Nin's attorney to a meeting. Miller and Nin did not get along at first. Eventually, the two became completely obsessed with one another. It is Miller who is credited with allowing Nin to discover a new side of openness, sensuality and sexuality that had been hidden deep inside the woman.

Miller believed in experiencing absolutely everything and everyone possible, often seeing life in a purely academic way, almost as if absent.



Nin describes Miller: "He has an interesting head - vivid, strong accents of black eyes, black hair, olive skin, sensual nostrils and mouth, a good profile. He looks like a Spaniard, but he is Jewish-Russian, he tells me. He is puzzling to me. He looks raw, easily hurt" (p. 7).

In the end, Miller continued to live off the funds supplied by friends, including Nin. When June returned from America, Miller returned to her, ultimately sacrificing his relationship with Nin.

Hugo Guiler

Hugo Guiler was Anais Nin's husband. Guiler was a banker who tolerated his wife's experiments and infidelities.

June Mansfield Miller

June Mansfield Miller was Henry Miller's wife. June was an obsession for both Miller and Nin, despite obvious mental instability.

Alfred Perles

Alfred "Fred" Perles was a friend of Miller's who lived at Place Clinchy and offered work to Miller.

Eduardo

Eduardo was Nin's cousin and first love.

Natasha

Natasha was a friend of Nin's who offered her house to the writer.

Dr. Allendy

Dr. Allendy was the psychoanalyst employed by Eduardo, Nin, and Hugo. Nin also had an affair with Allendy.

John Erskine

John Erskine was a former lover of Nin's.

Pauline

Pauline is Perles's girlfriend.



Objects/Places

Paris

Paris is the main setting used in *Henry and June: From a Journal of Love: The Unexpurgated Diary of Anaïs Nin, 1931-1932*, by Anais Nin. Although Miller and Nin were both American, Paris seemed to be the place where the couple were able to free themselves from conventionality in their work as well as in their personal lives.

Paris was highly celebrated in the 1930s. Many authors and painters chose to live in Paris for its freedom and artistic expression. The cafes and clubs were places in which one wanted to be seen. Expatriate Americans seemed to have more in common in Paris than anywhere else in the world.

For Nin and Miller, Paris also offered a type of acceptance which allowed them to pursue their love affair.

Nin's residence on the outskirts of Paris was Louveciennes, a large house with a garden. Hugo and Nin lived at Louveciennes during their stay in France.

While in Paris, Miller resided at Place Clichy, an untouched part of Paris that was filled with restaurants, cafes and shops.

Louveciennes

The descriptions of Louveciennes seem to change with Nin's mood. The area was perfect for a writer and her banker husband who would become a filmmaker. Louveciennes was a haven for impressionist painters and other artists. It is located on the western side of Paris.

Nin hints at many aspects of the house without giving a room by room description. The reader gathers that the house was large as guests were often welcomed. The reader also gets the impression that there was some opulence to it, from the grand fireplaces to the gardens. It was, at most times, a source of comfort for Nin.

However, there were times when Nin was not in a good frame of mind that Louveciennes seemed almost like a prison. Nin says, Louveciennes is like a casket, petal-lined, carved, golden, with walls of newborn leaves, blossoms, neatly raked alleys, names of flowers on sticks, old trees, hoary ivy, mistletoe. I will fill it with Henry" (p. 148).

Nin also writes about her studio at Louveciennes. The room is filled with the presence and essence of many men, from the books of DH Lawrence to memorabilia from John Erskine to letters and manuscripts from Miller.



Place Clichy

Place Clichy is the location of Miller's apartment in Paris.

New York

New York is the destination for June Mansfield when she leaves Paris.

Chicago

Chicago is the hometown to Alfred Perles.

American Express

The American Express is a small diner type place often used by Nin and Mansfield.

Cafe de la Rotonde

Cafe de la Rotonde is a Parisian cafe often frequented by Nin, Miller and others.

Cafe Viking

Cafe Viking is a Parisian cafe often frequented by Nin, Miller and others.

Nin's Journal

Nin's journal is an ever present entity throughout the book. Nin often refers to the journal as her vice or disease.

Criticism

Early in the book, Nin is consumed with her criticism of DH Lawrence's work.

Themes

Obsession

Obsession is one of the main themes in *Henry and June: From a Journal of Love: The Unexpurgated Diary of Anaïs Nin, 1931-1932*, by Anais Nin.

Many of the characters throughout the book suffer from some form of obsession. Miller is obsessed with June, most likely in a physical sense. June is obsessed with expressing her sexuality, even though at times it is a reluctant gesture. Miller is also obsessed with Nin, but in a way that is different from his obsession with June. Miller claims that his obsession and love for Nin are all consuming even when they are apart. It is not so with June.

June's obsessions seem to be frivolous and short-lived. This is obvious by the way she flits between lovers.

Nin becomes obsessed and possessed with Miller after a time. Nin worships Miller's sexual freedom with her and with his brilliance as a writer. There is also an element of fascination between Nin and Miller that feeds the obsession.

On an introspective level, Nin is obsessed with her own femininity, the tendency to write in her journal and to exorcise herself of frigidity. The analysis by Dr. Allendy also shows Nin that she is obsessed with obtaining a father figure to replace the one she never had. Nin's father did not want a daughter, did not celebrate Nin, and criticized her looks and her work. Nin would carry that obsession into her work and into her relationships for the rest of her life.

Love

Love is one of the main themes. The first mention of love is between Eduardo and Nin. Eduardo believes that Nin was always meant to be his, even though Nin is married to Hugo. It is true that Nin loves Eduardo, but not in the way he would like.

Nin clearly loves Hugo, even when there are deep and passionate expressions of love for others, particularly Henry and June. It is a different kind of love with Hugo, all accepting, deep and longstanding. There is friendship above all which is what can sustain the relationship through the turbulent year.

Miller brings up love early on. It is clear that Miller's idea of love at this point is no more than fascination, lust, or both. Nin even comments that like many men, Miller equates sex with love. Throughout the book, both Nin and Miller begin to experience a different kind of love, one they believe transcends sex.

There are many variations on the theme of love throughout Nin's journal. The term is employed loosely at times and heartfelt and deep at others.

Writing

Beyond obsession and love, Miller and Nin share a pure love and devotion for the art of writing. Their experiences are different. Miller was a novelist and Nin was a diarist before being a novelist and critic. While there were separations between the two, Nin claims that to writers, writing is not an art, it is equal to breathing.

Nin is most well known for her often shocking and completely open journals surrounding her life and affairs.

Nin runs the gamut of emotions throughout the journal. Regardless of what Nin is feeling, it is almost always extreme in its explanation. When Nin lived in Paris, there was much to explore, yet there was a tone of boredom in her work. After Nin became involved with Miller, the tone took on a new level of depth and meaning, from elation to hatred, and from pure release to fear and confinement. The same can also be said of Nin's feelings and writing regarding the other major influences at that time from the security and comfort of Hugo, the superiority with Eduardo, the playfulness with Dr. Allendy, the sheer unadulterated passion and obsession with Miller, and those same feelings plus a hint of forbidden fruit with June.

Nin also expresses shame and remorse for some of her actions and explores her childhood trauma and how it affected her work and relationships at the time.

Style

Perspective

As a personal memoir, Anais Nin has the ultimate perspective on her own feelings and experiences.

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Tone

The tone used in *Henry and June: From a Journal of Love: The Unexpurgated Diary of Anaïs Nin, 1931-1932* by Anais Nin is purely and wholly subjective. As a diarist, Nin is careful to explain the majority of things that occurred to her during this period in her life. Nin had been journaling since childhood and often referred to those earlier works to show different times and how they differed in tone.

Nin runs the gamut of emotions throughout the journal. Regardless of what Nin is feeling, it is almost always extreme in its explanation. When Nin lived in Paris, there was much to explore, yet there was a tone of boredom in her work. After Nin became involved with Miller, the tone took on a new level of depth and meaning, from elation to hatred, and from pure release to fear and confinement. The same can also be said of Nin's feelings and writing regarding the other major influences at that time from the security and comfort of Hugo, the superiority with Eduardo, the playfulness with Dr.



Allendy, the sheer unadulterated passion and obsession with Miller, and those same feelings plus a hint of forbidden fruit with June.

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Structure

Henry and June: From a Journal of Love: The Unexpurgated Diary of Anaïs Nin, 1931-1932, by Anais Nin is a work of non-fiction. The book is comprised of 274 pages, spanning October 1931 - October 1932. There are no chapters. The sections are only divided by month.

The book begins at Louveciennes, the western Paris neighborhood in which Nin and her husband, Hugo Guiler, have taken a home. The first entry details a visit by Eduardo, Nin's cousin and supposed first love.

Because the book is Nin's journal, the events are chronological. There is a clever use of flashback via Nin's mention of previous entries and former relationships. The background is also given through some of the discussions with Miller and Dr. Allendy.

While the journal deals with Nin's burgeoning sexuality and feelings about the main players in the book, i.e., Hugo, Miller, Eduardo, Mansfield, Erskine, and others, the main focus is on specific events that occurred, mainly between Nin and Miller. Also, because it is a journal, there are some statements and references that are not entirely clear on their own and the reader is left to guess at their meaning.

Overall, Nin completely captures the year during which she had affairs with Henry and June.



Quotes

"Abnormal pleasures kill the taste for normal ones." p. 4

"When he first stepped out of the car and walked towards the door where I stood waiting, I saw a man I liked. In his writing he is flamboyant, virile, animal, magnificent. He's a man whom life makes drunk." p. 6

"There are two ways to reach me: by the way of kisses or by the way of the imagination." p. 8

"All Henry's instincts are good, not in the nauseating Christian sense but in the simple human sense." p. 39

"June has no ideas, no fantasies of her own." p. 45

"I am trapped between the beauty of June and the genius of Henry." p. 4

"Writers make love to whatever they need." p. 54

"Writing is not, for us, an art, but breathing." p. 58

"What will you do after you have revealed all there is to know about June?" p. 65

"Both Henry and June have destroyed the logic and the unity of my life." p. 68

"And here I stumble, because of inexperience, dazed by the intensity and savagery of those hours." p. 82

"I feel my past like an unbearable weight on me, like a curse, the source of every moment I make, every word I utter." p. 104

"Since he has come to me I have practiced instinctively the faithfulness of whores: I do not take any pleasure except with him." p. 120

"I am finished with myself, with my sacrifices and my pity, with what chains me." p. 142

"When Henry telephones, I feel his voice in my veins. I want him to talk into me. I eat Henry, I breathe Henry, Henry is in the sun." p. 155



Topics for Discussion

Do you think Nin is a lesbian? If so, what brought about this new awareness? If not, what do you think caused the obsession with June?

Examine the initial hatred between Hugo and June and the intermittent hatred between Henry and Anais. Do you think it was jealousy or intense dislike? How do you know?

Discuss the relationship between Eduardo and Anais.

Anais frequently gives money to Henry and June, even when she cannot really afford it. Where does all the money come from?

Do you think June is a pathological liar or a sociopath? Explain.

Nin claims that she is unfaithful to Hugo because she is an artist with an artist's heart and loves everything. Do you think this is a valid explanation? How might Hugo view it?

In your own words, describe the relationship between Nin and Miller. Do you think it was love, lust or something else? What might have happened if the two had stayed together?

How might the relationships between Nin and Miller, Nin and Mansfield have been different if one of the parties was not married?