



# Men

*Marie Darrieussecq*

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**Men** Marie Darrieussecq

**Winner Prix Médicis, Prix des Prix, 2013**

The French title of *Men* plays on a quote by Marguerite Duras: We have to love men a lot. A lot, a lot. Love them a lot in order to love them. Otherwise it's impossible, we couldn't bear them.'

With her characteristic intensity, edginess and humour, Marie Darrieussecq explores female desire, what it means to be a woman. Solange was a provincial teenager in *All the Way*; now in her thirties, she's not a great mother, is a mediocre actress, but in Hollywood she falls for a charismatic actor, Kouhouesso, who wants to direct a movie of Joseph Conrad's *Heart of Darkness*—in Africa. He's black; she's white—what's the difference when it comes to love, she wonders?

Solange follows her man to Africa, determined to play a main role in both his film and his affections. But nothing goes to plan in this brilliantly droll examination of romance, movie-making and clichés about race relations. After all, there's no guarantee you'll be loved by the one you love.

Personal and political, passionate and engaged, *Men* is a novel that will make you see things differently.

**Marie Darrieussecq** was born in 1969 in Bayonne, France. Her debut novel, *Pig Tales* was published in thirty-four countries. Five other novels have also been translated into English including *A Brief Stay with the Living*, *Tom is Dead* and *All the Way*. Marie Darrieussecq lives in Paris.

'There are few writers who may have changed my perception of the world, but Darrieussecq is one of them.'  
*The Times*

'The internationally celebrated author who illuminates those parts of life other writers cannot or do not want to reach.'  
*Independent*

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