

ANDRÉE VIOLLIS

TUEURS de FEMMES



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Title: Tueurs de femmes

Author: Andrée Viollis

Release date: May 9, 2025 [eBook #76050]

Language: French

Original publication: Paris: La Fronde, 1902

Other information and formats: www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/76050

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Au lecteur

SIXIÈME ANNÉE.—N° 1795

LE NUMERO: CINQ centimes

Samedi 8 novembre 1902

La Fronde

DIRECTRICE: **MARGUERITE DURAND**

ANDRÉE TÉRY

Tueurs de femmes

PARIS

Vidal, le tueur de femmes... Rien qu'à lire ce titre dans tous les journaux, il éclate à tous les yeux que ce misérable fut un «professionnel» de l'assassinat.

Peu importe que des savants soient venus déclarer à la barre que Vidal est un dégénéré, que des tares congénitales, des accidents et des maladies l'ont rendu presque irresponsable. Peu importe que ses crimes n'aient pas de mobiles ou que ces mobiles relèvent de la douche et non du code: Vidal fut un tueur de femmes, c'est un fait indéniable. Et ce fait justifie amplement le zèle que déployèrent à l'envi le président de la Cour d'assises et ses aides-bourreaux pour suspendre à la ceinture de leurs robes rouges, cette lamentable tête difforme et détraquée. Demandez plutôt à la populace qui tous les jours escortaient la voiture cellulaire: «A mort!» clamait la foule avec une noble indignation. «A mort!» hurlait-elle, avec une joie triomphante, après la lecture de la sentence.

Notez que dans ces indignations et ces joies il entre une certaine «galanterie française». Si Vidal n'avait tué que des hommes, il paraîtrait moins odieux. Mais un tueur de femmes, de faibles créatures sans défense! Il est évident qu'aux yeux des douze bourgeois du jury ce fut une circonstance aggravante.

Merci bien, messieurs. Vous êtes gentils de nous offrir cette tête, mais nous n'en avons que faire. Que l'on mette ce maniaque dans l'impossibilité de nuire, qu'on l'enferme dans un cabanon, soit. Mais qu'on le guillotine, pourquoi?

Parce qu'il a tué deux ou trois femmes? La belle affaire? Combien de nos contemporains en ont tué davantage qui déambulent par le monde, libres et honorés...

Car il y a mille manières de nous donner la mort, messieurs les jurés, et de ces mille manières celle des Vidal et des Vacher, pour être la moins lente, n'est pas toujours la plus cruelle.

Tueurs de femmes, ces patrons qui asservissent leurs ouvrières, les tiennent douze ou quinze heures par jour, ployées sur l'ouvrage, les yeux brûlés, les mains tremblantes, les jambes et les reins brisés par la trépidation de la machine, qui les entassent dans des ateliers étroits et malsains et en échange de leur travail, de leur jeunesse, de leur santé, de leur vie ne leur octroient que des salaires de famine. Quand ces malheureuses, surmenées, épuisées, affamées succombent enfin à

l'anémie, à la tuberculose, au vice, quel nom donnerez-vous à leurs exploiters? Et si elles sont des victimes, ne sont-ils pas des bourreaux?

Tueurs de femmes, les beaux messieurs, jeunes ou vieux marcheurs qui, d'une autre façon, spéculent sur la misère de ces pauvres filles. Regardez-les, ces irrésistibles Don Juans, qui guettent, poursuivent, traquent ces petites proies faciles et désarmées. Quand vint l'heure du désespoir ou celle de la tendresse, quand elles sentirent le besoin d'aimer ou de manger, c'est sans scrupule qu'ils les ont prises, comme on vole et comme on viole; puis, las de leurs «conquêtes», rêvant d'autres exploits, c'est sans scrupule encore qu'ils les abandonnèrent à toutes les tentations de la faim, de la douleur et de la solitude, à tous les mépris et à toutes les déchéances...

Tueurs de femmes, ces gens austères qui, sous un fallacieux prétexte d'hygiène et de moralité publique, se font les défenseurs et les apologistes de la prostitution. Pour satisfaire à leurs prudentes lubricités, des créatures qui n'ont plus d'humain que le sexe sont chaque jour vendues, troquées, importées et exportées comme le plus vil bétail; elles sont enfermées dans des bagnes, humiliées et meurtries dans leur âme et dans leur corps, abruties par l'alcool et la luxure obligatoires, pantelante chair à plaisir. Comment appellerez-vous tous ceux qui vivent de cette institution monstrueuse, ou qui la tolèrent, policiers, proxénètes, débauchés, législateurs hypocrites?

Tueur de femme, l'amant qui laisse à sa «complice» toutes les responsabilités et tout le déshonneur de la «faute» commune; qui ajoute à l'absurde préjugé de honte pesant sur la fille-mère un fardeau si lourd que pour s'en décharger elle recourt souvent au suicide ou à l'infanticide...

Tueur de femme, le mari qui traite sa compagne en esclave, la dépouille et la berne, la trompe et la tyrannise;—et cet autre mari qui, sous prétexte qu'en disposant de son cœur et de sa chair, sa femme lui a «volé» l'honneur, invoque le code qui châtie l'épouse adultère, ou, plus expéditif, se fait justice lui-même, sûr d'être absous par un jury de mâles...

Tueur de femmes, le père qui, condamnant ses filles à l'ignorance et à la servitude, leur refuse le minimum d'instruction qu'il exige de ses fils, cela parce qu'une femme en sait toujours assez long... ou cet autre qui les envoie au couvent et leur empoisonne l'âme de niaiseries superstitieuses.

Ils courent les rues, les tueurs de femmes! Et puisque tous ceux-là demeurent impunis, un de plus, un de moins!—nous demandons la grâce de Vidal.

A quel titre?

En notre qualité de victimes...

ANDRÉE TÉRY.

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Les annonces sont reçues aux Bureau du Journal et chez Lagrange et Cerf,
6, place de La Bourse, Paris.

Au lecteur

Andrée Viollis (1870-1950) est une journaliste et écrivaine française, figure marquante du journalisme d'investigation et du grand reportage, correspondante de guerre. (Wikipedia)

Elle a publié "Tueurs de femmes" dans le journal "La fronde". *TÉRY* est le nom de son premier mari.

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