




Amantine Aurore Lucile


...was a French journalist and novelist born on July 1, 1804 in Paris and died on June 8, 1876. She is considered one of the most popular authors in 19th century Europe for her works signed under the pseudonym George Sand.





Her life:

- His mother was Sophie-Victoire Delaborde, a woman who came from a poor and unstable family. His father was Maurice Dupin, She was also related to King Louis Philippe I of France through common ancestors of reigning German and Danish families..
- The marriage of Sophie-Victoire Delaborde and Maurice Dupin was frowned upon by society at the time and was not accepted by Marie-Aurore de Saxe, Dupin's mother and consequently George Sand's grandmother. Marie-Aurore de Saxe was one of the most important people in the early life of the writer.

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- In 1808, the family was forced to travel to Spain for work reasons. They settled in the palace of Manuel Godoy, when he went into exile in Paris. Sand's stay in Spain was described by the author as one of the happiest stages of her life. It is at this moment when he first manifested tendencies considered masculine for the time, when his mother made him masculine clothes.


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- It is in 1809 the family returned to France, settling in the farm of his grandmother, Nohant, in the French province of Berry. This place became the setting for many of his novels. It was shortly after their arrival in Nohant that her father had an accident with a horse and died, and at this point the relationship between Sand's mother and grandmother reached a period of open rivalry. These two women had an unsustainable relationship from the beginning. The writer's mother came from a modest family, while her grandmother Marie-Aurore de Saxe was an aristocratic, secular person who identified with Voltaire's ideas. For this reason Sand had a better relationship with the latter, which he identified with freedom, books and culture.

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- In 1810, her mother went to Paris and Sand was left in the care of her grandmother, although with the obligation to visit her mother in Paris numerous times.⁸ In 1821, Marie-Aurore de Saxe died leaving her entire fortune to Sand.
 - In 1822, at the age of eighteen, Sand married Casimir Dudevant (1795-1871). They went to live in Nohant, Sand becoming a baroness. They had two children: Maurice (1823-1889) and Solange (1828-1899). It is at this time that one of the most important themes of his books appeared: marital unhappiness. One of the books where she alludes to this topic is *Lélia* (1833) .

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- In 1831 she left her husband, taking her children and settling in Paris. He entered a period of "romantic rebellion" of four or five years. But it was not until 1835 that he legally separated from Dudevant, retaining custody of his children.

Her most important books and novels:

- Early in his career, his work was in high demand. Such was the popularity of his writings that in 1836 he had to make a compilation of his works which he called *Complete Works*²⁰. In all, 4 separate editions of his *Complete Works* were published throughout his life. In 1880 his sons sold the rights to his literary estate for 125,000 francs (today it would be the equivalent of 1.3 million) .

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- From his childhood experiences in the countryside, Sand wrote the pastoral novels *La Mare au Diable* (1846), *François le Champi* (1847-1848), *La Petite Fadette* (1849) and *Les Beaux Messieurs de Bois-Doré* (1857).
 - In her first independent novel, *Indiana* (1832), she adopted the pseudonym that made her famous and by which she was known: George Sand. He took this name for the masculine resonance and for being associated with English literature.

Her attitude of rebellion

- During his youth Aurore Dupin drew attention for dressing in men's clothing and frequenting the exclusive circles of men. Somehow he understood that this was the only way for the literary world, controlled and fundamentally made up of men, to respect him. This is how George Sand was born.
- This attitude of rebellion against the system caused many to admire her but also to receive cruel criticism. However, nothing prevented her from living life as she pleased.

Her popularity:

- George Sand worked as a journalist, chronicler and novelist and published some of the seminal novels of his time. Her popularity spread throughout Europe, even being considered more important for the literature of his generation than the famous Victor Hugo.