THE MASTERPIECE

The tragic story of Claude Lantier, an ambitious and talented young artist from the provinces who has come to conquer Paris and is conquered by the flaws in his own genius. While his boyhood friend Pierre Sandoz becomes a successful novelist, Claude's originality is mocked at the Salon and turns gradually into a doomed obsession with one great canvas. Life—in the form of his model and wife Christine and...



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The Masterpiece

Author	Émile Zola
Original Book Format	Paperback
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Filesize	8.89 MB

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Peek Inside the Book

Haven't I told you scores of times, that you're always beginners, and the greatest satisfaction was not in being at the top, but in getting there, in the enjoyment you get out of scaling the heights? That's something you don't understand, and can't understand until you've gone through...

Reader's Opinions

This is Zola's most autobiographical novel and is the world of art and artists he knew well. His life long friend from school age was impressionist painter, Paul Cezanne. When he and Paul left Aix-en-Provence for Paris, Zola was introduced further into the art world and, in fact, was an art critic...

L'uvre/The Masterpiece is a wonderfully horrible tale of obsession which highlights and (in the case of Claude) amplifies the frustration, desperation and despair of 19th century artists at having their work rejected by the Paris Salon or disparaged by the viewing public. This was a re-read, and I decided to keep this review brief as...