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Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (pages 378-379) and index.
Nota di contenuto	1. Introduction -- 2. Rousseau's <i>La Nouvelle Héloïse</i> -- 3. Goethe's <i>Die Wahlverwandtschaften</i> -- 4. Flaubert's <i>Madame Bovary</i> -- 5. Conclusion.
Sommario/riassunto	Originally published in 1979. Adultery is a dominant feature in chivalric literature; it becomes a major concern in Shakespeare's last plays; and it forms the central plot of novels from <i>Anna Karenina</i> to <i>Couples</i> . Tony Tanner proposes that transgressions of the marriage contract take on a special significance in the "bourgeois novels" of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. His interpretation begins with the general topic of adultery in literature and then zeroes in on three works—Rousseau's <i>La Nouvelle Héloïse</i> , Goethe's <i>Die Wahlverwandtschaften</i> , and Flaubert's <i>Madame Bovary</i> . His interpretation encompasses the role of women, the structure of the family, social mores, and the history of sexuality.

