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Nota di contenuto	List of Abbreviations -- Acknowledgements -- Introduction -- AUTOBIOGRAPHY -- CHAPTER I Mémoires d'une jeune fille rangée -- CHAPTER II La Force de l'âge -- CHAPTER III La Force des choses -- CHAPTER IV Tout compte fait -- CHAPTER V Une mort très douce -- CHAPTER VI La Cérémonie des adieux -- Conclusion -- Bibliography -- Index.
Sommario/riassunto	Much has been written on Simone de Beauvoir, one of France's leading intellectual figures of the 20th century. The sheer volume of her autobiographical writings testifies to her indefatigable questioning of the nature of existence and her personal and public engagement in the world over the best part of a century. This study aims to re-evaluate her extensive autobiographical œuvre, exploring its place in relation to the French autobiographical canon, and in the light of recent theorisations of autobiography. It presents readings which engage critically with existentialism, feminist theory, and autobiography studies generally, in particular focusing on the question of 'autothanatography', a term developed by theorists such as Jacques Derrida and Louis Marin. A new reading of the autobiographies via the lens of thanatos is presented with questions of gender in mind, and the nature of autobiography as genre is also explored more fully with

particular attention paid to narrative voice. Close readings of the autobiographical œuvre combine with contextual details, critical overviews and links to recent developments in critiques of Beauvoir's fiction and philosophy. The study would be of particular interest to scholars in the following areas: 20th century French literature and culture; Autobiography studies; Literary theory; existentialism; Women's studies.
