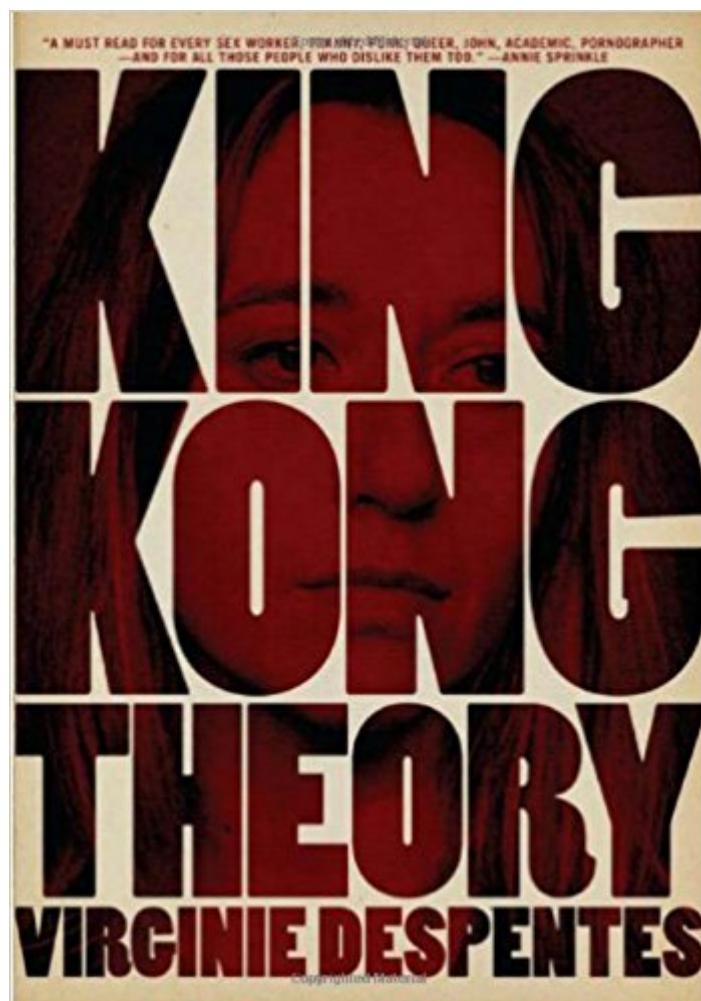


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# King Kong Theory



## Synopsis

With humor, rage, and confessional detail, Virginie Despentes in her own words ;more King Kong than Kate Moss ;delivers a highly charged account of women's lives today. She explodes common attitudes about sex and gender, and shows how modern beauty myths are ripe for rebelling against. Using her own experiences of rape, prostitution, and working in the porn industry as a jumping-off point, she creates a new space for all those who can't or won't obey the rules.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Don't be put off by short summaries that make this book sound like just another body-image/self-help book on the market: Despentes is radical, piercing, funny, and powerful. KING KONG THEORY is easy to read but also immensely thought-provoking and analytic.

Required of girls who are fickle about feminism as a result of feeling un-feminine. Despentes is a staunch character. This is a vital work.

Despentes' thoughts about women's lives are the kind hardly ever heard in either the general media or common discourse, even though her experiences are ones many women will share. This says much more about how our media and discourse is seriously lacking in promoting women's perspectives than because her commentary is revolutionary. For some, this collection of essays

may be revealing and inspiring in making them re-evaluate their place in the world or thoughts about other women. The book is a quick read and doesn't pad the discussion. As a book, however, there is not a great deal to it. It struck me that these chapters would make a great collection of online essays as it is not a particularly cohesive work. I rather wish that these discussions could, in fact, be found online so as to inspire more commentary on the ideas raised in it.

King Kong Theory is Despentes' candid account of how she became notorious: reviled and admired in equal measure for her rape-revenge novel turned film, *Baise-Moi*, she is the poster girl for modern female rebellion. Powerful, provocative and personal, King Kong Theory describes the ways her ideas have been shaped by her experiences of rape, prostitution and working in the porn industry. Feminist theory sheds its fusty image and takes on a punk mentality as Despentes claims that sisterhood explodes our belief in feminine perfection and creates a space for all those who can't or won't obey the rules. Woolf and de Beauvoir are revived and updated by the loudest, most fiercely unapologetic misfit writing in France today.

Despentes isn't messing around. Dedicating this manifesto to the ugly, the queer, the abused, all those who don't fit into the idea of what a "woman" should be, she goes on to explore the dysfunction of the way our western society treats all those people. She writes about her experience as a rape victim, a sex worker and a sex-positive film-maker, bringing to light an important perspective on feminism today.

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