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## Dying (French Literature)

*Rene Belletto*

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# DYING

RENÉ BELLETTO



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.51 #File Name: 1564785939165 pages | File size: 46.Mb

**Rene Belletto : Dying (French Literature)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Dying (French Literature):

A metaphysical thriller about the lengths to which men will go to escape the inevitable--be it love or death.

From Publishers WeeklyBelletto (Machine) sets up a narrative hall of mirrors in this whimsically discursive treatment

of the inevitabilities of life in two interrelated stories. A nameless narrator who has consigned himself to dying in Paris's Rats and Vermin Hotel shares the convoluted story of how he got there. The story, of course, involves a woman: Queene, a grifter, has been paid to impersonate a woman who has been kidnapped. The scheme is that the narrator, after delivering the ransom, will realize he has been duped, and leave in hopeless anger. Instead, he falls madly in love with Queene and the two travel to Spain and indulge their passion for each other, though he conceals from her his discovery of a troubling manuscript that he believes tells his future. In the second story, the same nameless narrator develops an infatuation for a woman, Anita, so stifling that he resolves to fake his own death in order to get away from her. That Belletto doesn't bother trying to form a coherent story line shouldn't be surprising, as his interest here lies in exploring cerebral, linguistic, and philosophical turf. The takeaway is playful and absurd, with thought-provoking text taking the place of traditional narrative. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. About the Author Rene Belletto was born in 1945. He is a screenwriter, guitar teacher, poet, and novelist. He is the author of numerous books of fiction, criticism, and poetry, including the novels *Dying*, *Eclipse* and *Machine*. His novel *L'Enfer* was awarded the Prix Femina in 1986.