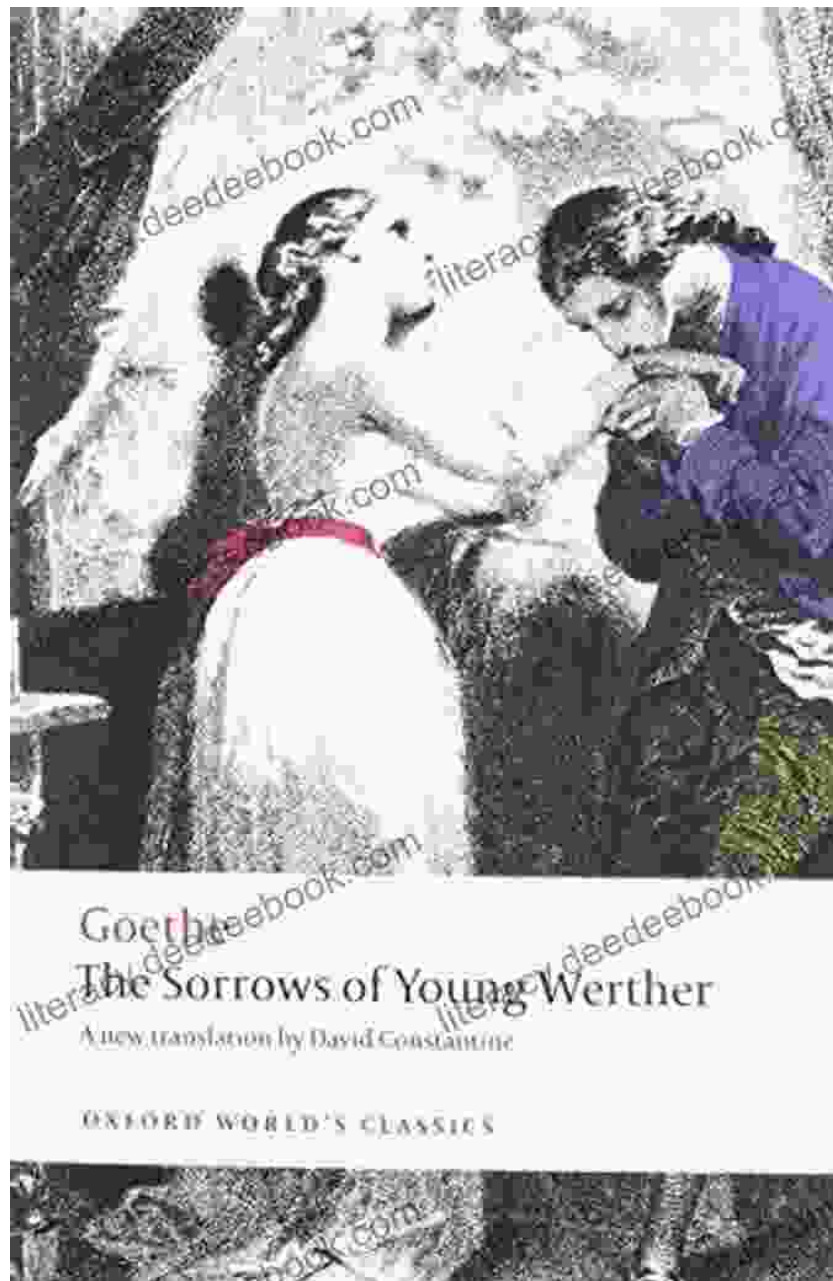


# Elective Affinities: A Novel by Johann Wolfgang von Goethe - Oxford World's Classics



Elective Affinities is a novel by Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, first published in 1809. The novel tells the story of four people who are drawn

together by their elective affinities, or natural attractions. The novel explores the themes of love, marriage, and the nature of human relationships.

## Plot summary

The novel is set in the early 19th century in Germany. Eduard and Charlotte are a young couple who are deeply in love. They have two children together, Otto and Luciane. Eduard's friend, the Baron, is also in love with Charlotte. He proposes to her, but she refuses because she is already married to Eduard.



### Elective Affinities: A Novel (Oxford World's Classics)

by Karen Cushman

★★★★☆ 4.3 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 1236 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 273 pages  
Lending : Enabled



The Baron is heartbroken, but he eventually agrees to marry Otilie, Charlotte's younger sister. Otilie is a beautiful and innocent young woman who is deeply in love with the Baron. However, the Baron is not as in love with Otilie as he is with Charlotte. He eventually leaves Otilie and returns to Charlotte.

Charlotte is torn between her love for Eduard and her love for the Baron. She eventually chooses the Baron, and they marry. However, their marriage is not a happy one. The Baron is still in love with Charlotte, and he is not able to give Otilie the love that she deserves.

Otilie is heartbroken, and she eventually dies of a broken heart. Eduard is also heartbroken, and he eventually dies of a broken heart. Charlotte is left alone with her two children. She is a broken woman, and she eventually dies of a broken heart.

## Characters

- **Eduard:** A young man who is deeply in love with his wife, Charlotte. He is a kind and gentle man, but he is also weak and indecisive.
- **Charlotte:** A beautiful and intelligent woman who is married to Eduard. She is torn between her love for Eduard and her love for the Baron.
- **The Baron:** A wealthy and charming man who is in love with Charlotte. He is a passionate and impulsive man, but he is also selfish and irresponsible.
- **Otilie:** A beautiful and innocent young woman who is in love with the Baron. She is a kind and gentle woman, but she is also naive and trusting.

## Themes

Elective Affinities explores the themes of love, marriage, and the nature of human relationships. The novel shows how love can be a powerful force, but it can also be a destructive force. The novel also explores the nature of marriage and how it can be a trap for some people.

## Critical reception

Elective Affinities has been praised by critics for its complex and nuanced exploration of human relationships. The novel has also been criticized for its slow pace and its lack of a clear resolution. However, Elective Affinities remains a classic work of German literature and is considered one of Goethe's most important works.

Elective Affinities is a complex and challenging novel that explores the nature of love, marriage, and human relationships. The novel is a classic work of German literature and is considered one of Goethe's most important works.



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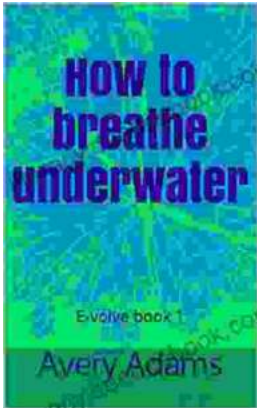
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