Marguerite de Navarre's Heptameron and Its Sources

The Heptameron of Marguerite de Navarre (1558) is a collection of seventy-two tales told by ten French noblewomen during a month's confinement at the Court of King François I. The tales are told to entertain their guests and to pass the time. The collection is divided into three sections: the first section contains stories of love and chivalry; the second section is about the misfortunes of women; and the third section is about the misfortunes of men. The tales are generally about the misfortunes of women and the ways in which they have been wronged by men. The collection is an important example of French literature and a significant contribution to the development of the novel as a literary form.

The tales are told in a frame narrative, which is a technique of storytelling where the author tells the story indirectly through the mouths of characters. The frame narrative is a common technique in French literature, and is used to create a sense of unity and coherence in the collection. The tales are also notable for their use of irony and satire, which are common techniques in French literature.

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