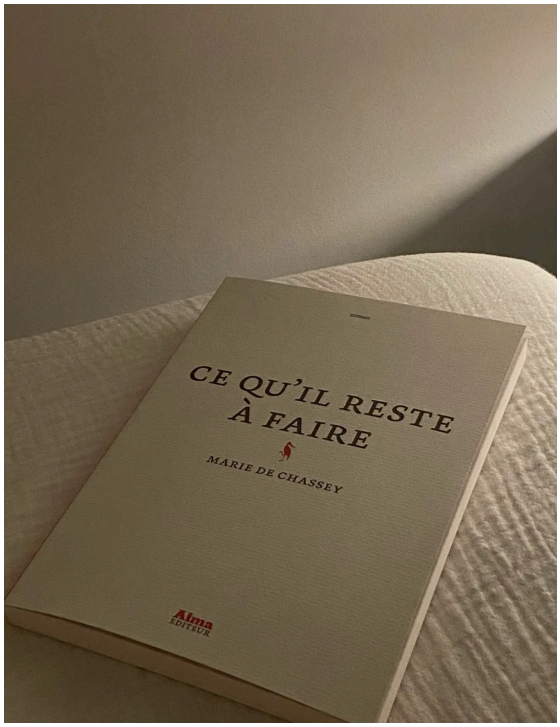
REVIEW

Ce qu'il reste à faire, by Marie de Chassey

by Estelle Normand

November 12, 2026 · On *Ce qu'il reste à faire (Alma éditeur)*

A mother, Florence, her daughter, Judith, and the illness that keeps her bedridden: a devastating first novel about the mother-daughter bond and the role of the caregiver.



Ce qu'il reste à faire (What Remains to Be Done)
Marie de Chassey's first novel (2023)
Alma éditeur
134 pages

A mother, Florence, her daughter, Judith, and the illness that keeps the latter confined to her bed. Their daily life on the edge of the abyss, what Judith would like to do, go out, see the sea, get away, desert her room, slip out of the hands of her mother, who is always thinking of what remains to be done.

Food, laundry, coolness, heat, visits, care. The relentless mechanics of a closed world. The same gestures on a loop. The doctors' opinions. The sword of Damocles hanging over their heads: care in a hospital, a more suitable, safer, sterile place, unthinkable for Florence, for who but she could better look after her daughter? No one could know better than she what must be done when her child's life hangs by a thread.

I was deeply moved by the complexity of the mother-daughter relationship, marked by opposing movements, impulses toward each other always out of step, rejection, the feeling of running out of air, and the difficulty of the caregiver's role, which mothers take on more often than their share.

A devastating novel, through the precision of its details and the power of its images, which leaves, once closed, an impression of infinite gentleness despite the harsh reality.

— Estelle Normand

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