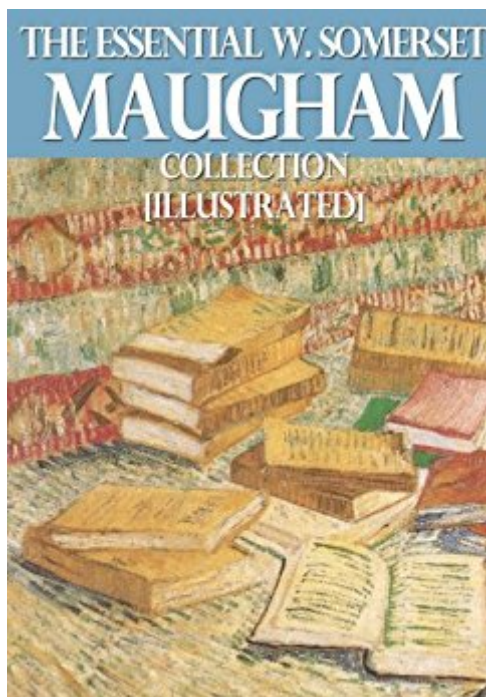


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The Essential W. Somerset Maugham Collection [Illustrated]



Synopsis

Illustrated with 10 unique illustrations. The Explorer The Hero The Land of Promise The Land of The Blessed Virgin; Sketches and Impressions in Andalusia Liza of Lambeth The Magician Moon and Sixpence Of Human Bondage Orientations The Trembling of a Leaf

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Customer Reviews

I'm not complaining a bit about this edition, which has an active Table of Contents, illustrations, and a minimum of editing errors. Like all e-books that I own, there aren't page numbers, and with a collection, the space indicator shows the entire volume as to usage. However, it's easy to "Go to" the beginning and choose a different story. Of course, these works are Maugham's very early ones, but some are notable and significant, such as his first book, "Liza of Lambeth," his most important work, "Of Human Bondage," and an interesting novel based on the life of Gaugin, "The Moon and Sixpence." Definitely worth the price!

It is troubling that so many people write a negative review of a compilation because "It doesn't have a Table of Contents" when in fact it does. The most common problem is that when first opened compilations often go to the first story/novel/whatever in the book. If this is the case, the reader

needs to merely back up a page or two, and there the TOC is! This book DOES have a TOC and is a real bargain for Somerset Maugham fans.

This is a sloppy publishing work not worth even the 99 cents I paid. No table of content, page numbers or chapters. Appears to have paragraphs numbered but you still would not even know which one of novels you are in. Maugham deserves a better publisher.

This is an old book, I saw the movie on TCM channel and at the end they spoke about how the movie only covered a small part of the book and it was such a wonderful book. I usually read about a book a week, this took me at least six weeks to wade through! I would be curious to know how many pages it is in print. The story covers the first 30 years of a man's life and all the insecurities and turbulence that goes along with it in great detail. While the story is not a recovery story, anyone who has dealt with addiction in their life will gain a lot of insight into their own thinking. In other words how do relatively smart people make such stupid mistakes and have such messed up thinking! This book is definitely not for everyone, but if you've been through addiction or struggled with insecurity it is a great read.

This contains many of Maugham's works in one package. I loved the South Seas series of short stories. Some other works are a bit tedious by today's standards: "Of Human Bondage" and "The Magician" are long, and detail-filled, but still interesting. I didn't see any illustrations, but that is not important. This is worth reading, even if you pick and choose.

The brilliance of Maugham's writing stands the test of time. His thoughtful observations on life, plots full of suspense and irony and his sparkling dialogue are keep me reading late into the night. His stories of the British empire and its far flung colonies give an important background for understanding of international dealings in the present day.

I just finished reading "The Explorer", one of ten stories in this collection, and I've been mesmerized by William Somerset Maugham's mastery as a storyteller. His choice of words are unequal in English literature. I've cancelled all appointments, sorties, or chores to be lost into the next story, "The Hero." I've been a fan of Somerset Maugham's novels for many years. Words fail me to describe his magic power as I become entranced into his stories. I've also enjoyed reading many other great books, but Somerset Maugham is the "King" of all authors. In "The Explorer", the deeply

and conscientious Alec MacKenzie has given years of his life in Africa to battle slave-traders. Single-handed and shunned by the British foreign office, he fights warring tribal leaders to establish peace and protection for the helpless villagers vulnerable to slave-traders attacks. When Alec meets Lucy Allerton, she appears as "Diana of the Uplands", the admirable image by John Furse at Millbank, and a "true descendant of the ladies that Sir Joshua painted." Lucy learns to admire Alec for his strength of character, his noble aspirations for unfortunate men and women in Africa, and his resolve to serve their cause. Fate, however, has other plans for Alec and Lucy to tear them apart by wedging doubts and torments between them. Their love would and should conquer all malicious and nefarious agents to tear them apart, except for their own fateful weakness. In time they will have to decide that what comes between them should be believed or discarded in the name of love.

good enough except with a Kindle version it is hard to move around the book and find what you want to read. You pretty much have to do random searches and hope for the best. I'm not commenting on Maugham himself, because if you are looking at this, you pretty much must know what he was about. There are no car chases...explosions...zombies...aliens...time travel...telekinesis. Just stories about people working out their lives in the 20s and 30s of the last century (which is where this reader belongs!!)

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