

The Alexandria Quartet is a tetralogy of novels by British writer Lawrence Durrell, published between and A critical and commercial success, the first three books present three perspectives on a single set of events and characters in Alexandria (), before and during the Second World War.

If there is one thing you can take away from "I suppose If there is one thing you can take away from reading this it is the sensuous, evocative and delectable language. It is a treat for the literary senses. Justine, in contrast, is a prime example of how to write an atmospheric novel with an underlying exploration of sexuality without appearing to physically strain words through a blender. The language is organic, not relying upon cursing or vivid description of sexual organs. Rather, skilful use of adjectives creates the right sense and connotation for the reader to understand what Durrell aims to say about love and sensuality. The main criticism of this novel is the apparent lack of plot. That said, there appears to be no plot merely because the plot is buried within woven language of such elaboration and complexity that any linear plot as readers normally understand them can be hard to observe. Justine was still a beautiful start to this quartet and easily a 4 and a half star book. Balthazar This novel is far more difficult to understand than its predecessor, Justine due to what appeared to be shifts in the narrative chronology and also narrator. In many ways this makes Balthazar a stronger novel than Justine and a weaker novel. This appears a weaker novel simply because those who found the first book lacking in plotting may find this second novel a tedious venture. As mentioned the changes in narrator and possibly timeframe for the viewpoint create a challenge for the reader. His skills as a wordsmith and stylist which leads one to compare him to Mervyn Peake are fully on display in phrases like "the cloying grunting intercourse of saxophones and drums" and "The dark tides of Eros, which demand full secrecy if they are to overflow the human soul This humour stems from the fact that the word for Jazz, which Durrell powerfully describes, originally came from a word meaning the act of intercourse. The second phrase in conjunction with the first, also reveals that though Durrell is a classy poetic writer the evocation of Eros is sublime he has a hint of earthiness to his quality. In other words he is both a man of the gentry or bourgeoisie as well as the peasantry. On the whole easily a five star novel. Very highly recommended for anyone who appreciates literary novels, classics or fine prose over traditional plotting. Mountolive Perhaps the weakest of all the four novels in this tetralogy, Mountolive again takes the reader back through the narrative arc of the first two novels. Yet even through its weakness this novel reveals the strength of the overall work, the ability to weave a portrayal of a city and its people into a complex analysis of politics and modern love. Often, when a writer travels back over narratives already familiar to the reader, what events will occur next is rather obvious. Yet Durrell is able to convince the reader that they understand very little of the events of the previous books, unearthing new layers and new details for the reader. In particular the hidden elements connected to espionage and war profiteering. Yet, as mentioned, Mountolive, for whatever reason, is weaker than the other four tales in the entire Alexandria Quartet. Perhaps it is the fact of how the narrative shifts to other characters than in previous novels and in the final novel. The main character of this novel, the titular David Mountolive, is a less fascinating and enigmatic character and the encounters he has are, from his perspective, less engaging to the reader. That said, the scenes with Pursewarden in this novel are some of its greatest aspects and not to be missed by any reader. Clea It is in Clea that the full experimental and unique nature of this entire work is revealed. Lawrence Durrell, in the previous books, had experimented with chronology and nesting narratives into the tale, yet in Clea this experimentation reaches a glorious crescendo. Where the previous three novels had followed the same plotline from different perspectives, Clea takes the reader into the future to observe what happens to the characters after. For the most part the conclusions are not happy or beautiful, rather they reveal a sense of the corrupting influence of the city. Yet this novel is the most beautifully written of all of them in how it merges poetry and prose into an exploration of the impact of modern love. Ultimately the conclusion that can be drawn from this novel is that in acting selfish one can expect ill gains in the future. Indeed, he seems to challenge the reader as to the nature of real, healthy love and ask them to observe that sexual love is a defining knowledgeable act. The Entire Work As a work of fiction The Alexandria Quartet in

its entirety is profound, serenely beautiful and complex. Yet this is a unique work, one of those which shall be remembered for years as a truly classic novel.

Chapter 2 : Alexandria Quartet Series by Lawrence Durrell

Lawrence George Durrell (/ ˈɛː d ɛːʃˈtʃɪr ˈɛtʃɪl, ˈɛː d ɛːtʃɪr-/; 27 February - 7 November) was an expatriate British novelist, poet, dramatist, and travel calendrierdelascience.com was the oldest brother of naturalist Gerald Durrell.

Beschreibung bei Amazon Gerald Durrell is an American author of fiction. His full name is Gerald Malcolm Durrell. Born January 7, , in India, his family settled in Corfu when he was young and this gave Gerald some opportunity to study the wildlife there. He put these experiences into a trilogy that started off with *My Family and Other Animals*. He would follow it with two more, the last of which being titled *The Garden of the Gods*. He includes a lot of humor as well as details about animals and humans that he meets in them. When Durrell left Corfu he returned to work as part of the staff at Whipsnade Park in England as a student zookeeper. He recorded his experiences there in the *Beasts in My Belfry* Book. He began organizing animal-collecting expeditions a few years later, the first being to the Cameroons. He would later travel to Argentina, Sierra Leone, and Paraguay. He is the brother of Lawrence Durrell. Known by his nickname Gerry, Gerald Durrell had more hobbies and passions than writing alone. He visited several more countries while working as a presenter on a few different television series. He has written a variety of novels that have come out, edited anthologies, had his works collected, and written two picture books in addition to the five of the *Puppy Tales* series. Gerald Durrell was a zookeeper, naturalist, author, television presenter, and conservationist. As part of his conservationist works, he fulfilled a lifelong dream in when he founded what is now named the *Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust* formerly the *Jersey Wildlife Preservation Trust* as well as the now *Durrell Wildlife zoo*, formerly the *Jersey Zoo*, located on the Channel Island of Jersey. He is remembered for being an enthusiast about nature and animals but is also well known for writing a number of nonfiction books that are based on his life. He passed away on January 30, He is the author of the *Puppy Tales* series, which is a spirited and fun series with pictures. His nonfiction series debuted well earlier than this series and the *Corfu Trilogy* started off with *My Family and Other Animals*. The trilogy is a mostly autobiographical look at the Durrell family growing up as well as his experiences exploring the natural history of the island on which they lived. The island is a natural paradise that is full of animals, birds, insects, and interesting people. Gerald is obsessed with collecting animals and experiencing natural life on the island, stoking his amateur love of animals and hopes to be a zoologist later in life. The trilogy covers a boyhood that could rarely be more enjoyable or fun except for when his animals ended up in the fridge. Still, Durrell recollects his time growing up with his family in Greece with good humor and flair, making this trilogy readable and engaging. The Durrell family is anything but conventional, and they live in England together. But at some point, they collectively decide that they really cannot endure the gray climate of England and all the rain any longer. So the Durrell family does what seems only natural to them and sell their house. Once free of their home in England, they are free to relocate completely to Corfu, an exotic and sunny Greek island. It may be unconventional, but it makes perfect sense to them. Corfu has an abundance of animals, insects, and plants that make it endlessly fascinating to him. There are characters aplenty in this wonderful first nonfiction novel about Corfu from Durrell, and the reader will be delighted to hear about the endless parade of natural life that Gerald encounters in Greece. He observes and interacts with everything from puppies to octopi, bats, ladybugs, glowworms, toads, scorpions, ladybugs, and more. Released to the public for the first time in , this naturalist sequel capitalizes on all of the natural beauty and enthralling stories that Durrell has to tell about his time with his family living in Greece on an island that is unique, to say the least. All three of the books are now available in a collection called *The Corfu Trilogy*. Jack Reacher is back! Family secrets come back to haunt Reacher when he decides to visit the town his father was born in. Because when he visits there he finds out no-one with the last name of Reacher has ever lived there. It leaves him wondering - did his father ever live there? Recommendations Every 2 weeks we send out an e-mail with Book Recommendations. Insert your e-mail below to start getting these recommendations. If you see one missing just send me an e-mail below. Featured Author Our author of the month is Canadian author Opal Carew who writes erotic romance novels. Opal has written over novels with multiple book series such as the *Dirty Talk* series and the *Abducted* series.

Chapter 3 : Lawrence Durrell | Books | The Guardian

Lawrence Durrell's series of four novels set in Alexandria, Egypt during the s. The lush and sensuous series consists of Justine () Balthazar () Mountolive () Clea ().

I read these early pages and adored them. I adored where I thought these novels would go. I thought I had found another pure and wonderful reading experience. I so wanted that to happen. I planned to celebrate what I had heard was an amazing series of books, and I loved the first, but then, halfway through the second, I got some bad news via email: Durrell was not well-liked. This came as a surprise. So I looked into this Durrell stuff. The results were not good. In a bad mood, I called my editor. He said to keep writing. He said to tell it like it happened. I had so wanted a way out of this. A change of assignment. Kill the piece and move on. And the proof against him had been right there in the free, online archives of The New York Times all along. My anger made me ask why was I writing literary criticism in the first place. So much literary criticism is false and impersonal, and I feared this aspect of it. Artists are supposedly meant to be quirky, delicate, or raging, in order to succeed as profitable personalities. I could hear Miller laughing at my mistake in the tone of a grand artiste.

Chapter 4 : Justine by Lawrence Durrell | calendrierdelascience.com

Lawrence George Durrell was a critically hailed and beloved novelist, poet, humorist, and travel writer best known for The Alexandria Quartet novels, which were ranked by the Modern Library as among the greatest works of English literature in the twentieth century.

Critical Sources on The Alexandria Quartet: A History and a Guide. This piece is an interview, an article, and an advertisement for "The Spirit of Place: Studies in Fiction After Ulysses. Oxford University Press, Essays and Studies in Literary Criticism The Lawrence Durrell Quarterly 7. Anglo-Saxon Language and Literature Essays on the Fiction of Lawrence Durrell. Bucknell University Press, Ali, Zahra Ahmed Hussein. Narrative Techniques in The Alexandria Quartet. UMI Allen, Walter. Also available as Tradition and Dream: The Lawrence Durrell Newsletter 2. University of Texas at Austin, University Of Wisconsin - Madison, Durrell is discussed on pages Some Existential and Jungian Correspondences. University of Northern Colorado, International Scholars Press, International Scholars Publications, Differs significantly from the earlier publication in Deus Loci NS 3 Epiphany in the Modern Novel. University of Washington Press, Durrell is mentioned a number of times throughout the text Bequette, Michael Kenneth. Wayne State University, Columbia Essays on Modern Writers 5. Columbia University Press, Durrell is mentioned throughout the book, with reference to the other authors under consideration, and The Alexandria Quartet is discussed in an independent chapter. The Alexandria Quartet by Lawrence Durrell. Southern Illinois University Press, An Online Graduate Journal 3. State University of New York Press, Sexuality and the Shaping of Modernism. University of Chicago Press, Homoerotic Negotiations in Colonial Narrative. Gay Male Perspectives in Literature and Culture. Clum, and Michael Moon. Duke University Press, The entire volume is a reprint of South Atlantic Quarterly Male Writers and Gender Ed Criticism. Laura Claridge and Elizabeth Langland. University of Massachusetts Press, Reprint of same title, South Atlantic Quarterly Publications of the Modern Language Association of America National Library of Canada, The Idea of Individual Responsibility. Orientalism and Empire in the Alexandria Quartet. University of Texas, Austin, The Lawrence Durrell Quarterly 5. Thematic Development in the Novels of Lawrence Durrell, University of Alberta, Essays on the Art of Lawrence Durrell. UMI Research Press, Contains an interview with Durrell about his use of relativity as an analogy in The Alexandria Quartet. Brown, Keith, and Martin Dodsworth. Graham Greene to Tom Stoppard. Page reference may be more extensive than listed, up to p. I have not secured a copy and citations are conflicting. Dissertation Abstracts International A Guide to Contemporary Fiction. Priestley, Edward Upward and Angus Wilson. The American edition is entitled The Novel Today. Folcroft Library Editions, The British edition is entitled The Novel Now. Enscore, and Paige Matthey Bynum. University of Missouri Press, A Work in the Baroque Spirit. University College, Dublin, Post-Newtonian Physics and Modernist Literature. Prize essay for -- best dissertation submitted for the final Cambridge University English honours examination. Card, James Van Dyck. Carruthers, Virginia Kirby-Smith, Ed. University of Baltimore, Cartwright, Michael, et al. On Miracle Ground II: Response to Godshalk in same volume Cartwright, Michael Percy. University of Nebraska, Florida State University, Reality in The Alexandria Quartet. The Relativity Mythos and the Rainbow of Personality. Christensen replies to Grimes. Durrell and Brother Criticus. Vander Closter Creed, Walter G. A Journal for the Interdisciplinary Study of Literature 6. University of Pennsylvania, University of Aberdeen, An Approach to Lawrence Durrell. A Review of Ancient and Modern Letters 1 Translated by Christine de Lailhacar Decancq, Roland. Some sources mistakenly list Decancq as "Delancq" and the citation as The Journal of the English Association Durrell is mentioned relatively briefly in the context of the bildungsroman, along with a number of other mainly 20th Century authors. University of Leicester, Associated University Presses, Studies in Seven Authors. Implications of Time in the Novels of Lawrence Durrell. University of Western Ontario.

Chapter 5 : Gerald Durrell - Book Series In Order

Justine (The Alexandria Quartet #1), Balthazar (The Alexandria Quartet #2), Mountolive (The Alexandria Quartet #3), Clea (The Alexandria Quartet #4), Th.

Almost infinite variations of love are certainly explored in its 1,000 pages, and the presence of Alexandria certainly permeates the work, but I think the legendary fascination of the quartet is essentially existential. The work itself is greater than its themes, and casts a spell that is neither precisely emotional nor specifically topographic. It is actually neither specific nor precise about anything. It was based on the premise that people and events seem different when considered from different angles and periods, and that they can best be recorded, as Durrell himself put it, stereoscopically. It is a device, Durrell claimed, amounting to a new concept of reality, reflecting the ideas of Freud and Einstein and a convergence of western and eastern metaphysics. If that sounds over-blown, well, the Quartet itself is not without pretension, in concept as in performance. As has generally been admitted, it is often ornate and over-written, sometimes to an almost comical degree. The high ambition of its schema can make its narratives and characters inexplicably confusing, and its virtuoso use of vocabulary can be trying "pudicity"? But if there are parts of the work that few readers, I suspect, will navigate without skipping, there are many passages of such grand inspiration that reaching them feels like emerging from choppy seas into marvellously clear blue Mediterranean waters. For it is true that the city of Alexandria does colour the entire work. Durrell lived and worked in the city from 1935 to 1942, and he believed strongly in the effect of place on human temperament. We see inside the mansions of rich cosmopolitans and diplomats, we visit stifling attic bedrooms, brothels and pleasure pavilions by the sea. Much of all this is factual. In fact a general sensuality is the most Alexandrine aspect of the Quartet, but it does show itself, too, in somewhat hazy illustrations of individual sex – "modern love", as Durrell put it. These "dark blue tides of Eros" are far from pornographic. Sometimes, it is true, we are unsure who is loving whom, and now and then there are homosexual and cross-dressing deviations, but mostly the love elements are straightforward and moving, and really do dominate, as Durrell implied, the devious goings-on of the plot. Which is full of surprises. He was particularly admired for his descriptive writing, and these books are rich in masterly set-pieces, but he was also a fine storyteller, adept in techniques of suspense and deception. Shocks are always around the dusty corner. The four books of the tetralogy originally appeared separately – Justine in 1957, Balthazar and Mountolive in 1958, Clea in 1960. They were immediately recognised as remarkable works of art, but the verdict on the whole work, while always respectful, was mixed. French critics adored it. Americans lapped it up. English reviewers were not so sure. Its pretensions were mocked, its avant-garde excesses parodied, and although the books were commercial triumphs, he wrote nothing so publicly successful again. But the whole thing itself, this immense imaginary construction, has stood the tests of time and taste, and has never been out of print – probably never will be. Half a century after its completion, those florid vulgarities, those modernist pretensions, seem no more than incidental to its unique flavour, which lingers in the mind long after its labyrinthine plots for they are myriad, and muddling have been forgotten.

Chapter 6 : Lawrence Durrell - OverDrive (Rakuten OverDrive): eBooks, audiobooks and videos for librarians

Lawrence Durrell, born years ago, is best known for The Alexandria Quartet, a study of modern love with a plot full of surprises - there are shocks around every dusty corner, writes Jan Morris.

He had three younger siblings—two brothers and a sister. Like many other children of the British Raj, at the age of eleven, Durrell was sent to England for schooling, where he briefly attended St. His formal education was unsuccessful, and he failed his university entrance examinations. He began to write poetry seriously at the age of fifteen. His first collection, *Quaint Fragments*, was published in , when he was His mother decided to bring the family to England, and in , she, Durrell, and his younger siblings settled in Bournemouth. There, he and his younger brother Gerald became friends with Alan G. Thomas , who had a bookstore and would become an antiquarian. It was the first of his four marriages. There they could live more economically and escape both the English weather, and what Durrell considered the stultifying English culture, which he described as "the English death". For the first few months, the couple lived with the rest of the Durrell family in the Villa Anemoyanni at Kontokali. Gerald describes Lawrence as living permanently with his mother and siblings—his wife Nancy is not mentioned at all. Lawrence, in his turn, refers only briefly to his brother Leslie, and he does not mention that his mother and two other siblings were also living on Corfu in those years. The accounts cover a few of the same topics; for example, both Gerald and Lawrence describe the roles played in their lives by the Corfiot taxi driver Spiro Hakiaopoulos and Theodore Stephanides. Together with Alfred Perles , Nin, Miller, and Durrell "began a collaboration aimed at founding their own literary movement. Their projects included *The Shame of the Morning* and *the Booster*, a country club house organ that the Villa Seurat group appropriated for their own artistic. Jack Kahane of the Obelisk Press served as publisher. *An Agon* , was strongly influenced by Miller; it was published in Paris in The mildly pornographic work was not published in Great Britain until In the story, the main character Lawrence Lucifer struggles to escape the spiritual sterility of dying England and finds Greece to be a warm and fertile environment. In , he and Nancy had a daughter, Penelope Berengaria. The marriage was already under strain, and they separated in Nancy took the baby Penelope with her to Jerusalem. During his years on Corfu, Durrell had made notes for a book about the island. He did not write it fully until he was in Egypt towards the end of the war. She inspired his character Justine in *The Alexandria Quartet*. In , after his divorce from Nancy was completed, Durrell married Eve Cohen. In they had a daughter whom they named Sappho Jane, after the legendary ancient Greek poet Sappho. After many years of struggling with mental health problems, Sappho Durrell committed suicide by hanging in Mainland Greece was at that time locked in civil war. His co-habitation with Eve Cohen could be discreetly ignored by his employer, while the couple gained from staying within the perimeter security zone of the main building. His book *Reflections on a Marine Venus* was inspired by this period and was a lyrical celebration of the island. It avoids more than a passing mention of the troubled war times. He served there for eighteen months, giving lectures on cultural topics. Durrell was posted by the British Council to Belgrade , Yugoslavia , [12] and served there until This sojourn gave him material for his novel *White Eagles over Serbia* In , Eve had a nervous breakdown and was hospitalised in England. Durrell moved to Cyprus with their daughter Sappho Jane, buying a house and taking a position teaching English literature at the Pancyprian Gymnasium to support his writing. He next worked in public relations for the British government during the local agitation for union with Greece. In , he was selected as a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature. Durrell left Cyprus in August Political agitation on the island and his British government position resulted in his becoming a target for assassination attempts. *Justine* , *Balthazar* , *Mountolive* , and *Clea* , deal with events before and during the Second World War in the Egyptian city of Alexandria. The first three books tell essentially the same story and series of events, but from the varying perspectives of different characters. Durrell described this technique in his introductory note in *Balthazar* as "relativistic. He married again in , to Claude-Marie Vincendon, whom he met on Cyprus. She was a Jewish woman born in Alexandria. Durrell was devastated when Claude-Marie died of cancer in He married for the fourth and last time in , to Ghislaine de Boysson, a French woman. They divorced in The house was situated in extensive grounds surrounded by a

wall. He also completed *The Avignon Quintet*, published from to , which used many of the same motifs and styles found in his metafictional *Alexandria Quartet*. Although the related works are frequently described as a quintet, Durrell referred to it as a "quincunx". This is what the work of Sanguinetti shows us, in the form of a mirror image. Or, to put it in less philosophical terms, Eduardo Sanguinetti, like almost any other creator, has little understanding of what he is going to do and only partially understands what he has done. Sanguinetti, in a way of contemplating the world and all his work, whatever the medium, reveals this particular way. Sanguinetti is a style. He is an extraordinarily coherent statement of a way of being in the world. Later years, literary influences, attitudes and reputation[edit] A longtime smoker, Durrell suffered from emphysema for many years. One year after his death, in the British literary magazine *Granta* published excerpts from the journals of his late daughter Sappho. She had committed suicide in at the age of 33 after many years of psychiatric problems. In the journals, she intimated that she had an incestuous relationship with her father. Reviewer Roger Cohen said that the nature of her "largely incoherent" writing made it impossible to determine whether the events she describes were real or imagined. He had first read Miller after finding a copy of *Tropic of Cancer* that had been left behind in a public lavatory. He said the book shook him "from stem to stern". He later refused a Commander of the Order of St. George, because he felt his "conservative, reactionary and right-wing" political views might be a cause for embarrassment. He claimed to have disliked both Egypt and Argentina, [18] although not nearly so much as he disliked Yugoslavia. And one of the most enjoyable. Its innovation lies in its refusal to be more high-minded than the things it records, together with its handling of the whole lexicon of language. He preferred to be considered as cosmopolitan. Since his death, there have been rumours that Durrell never had British citizenship, but he was originally classified as a British citizen as he was born to British colonial parents living in India under the British Raj. In Durrell and many other former and present British residents became classified as non-patrial, as a result of an amendment to the Commonwealth Immigrants Act. He had not been told that he needed to "register as a British citizen in under the Commonwealth Immigrants Act. Diplomats were outraged and embarrassed at these events. Thomas donated a collection of books and periodicals associated with Durrell to the British Library. This is maintained as the distinct Lawrence Durrell Collection. Thomas had earlier edited an anthology of writings, letters and poetry by Durrell, published as *Spirit Of Place*

Chapter 7 : The Alexandria Quartet - Wikipedia

Lawrence Durrell, in full Lawrence George Durrell, (born Feb. 27, , Jullundur, India—died Nov. 7, , Sommières, France), English novelist, poet, and writer of topographical books, verse plays, and farcical short stories who is best known as the author of The Alexandria Quartet, a series of four interconnected novels.

Chapter 8 : The Alexandria Quartet by Lawrence Durrell

Popular Series By Lawrence Durrell List The Alexandria Quartet. Lawrence Durrell. Big Supposer Interviews With Lawrence Du. Lawrence Durrell.

Chapter 9 : International Lawrence Durrell Society: The Alexandria Quartet

Depending on who you ask, the Alexandria Quartet is either four short novels or one massive book with a higher page count than War and Peace. A group of friends and lovers narrate the action, offering their own perspectives on a series of events in Egypt during the World War II.