

Chapter 1 : William Somerset Maugham

This was the first I had read of Maugham's short stories, though, and the man was truly a master of the short tale just as much as the novel. While many of the stories do feature an O. Henry-esque turn at the end, they are not nearly as plot-oriented or sentimental as Henry's.

Bateman was silent for a moment, and his handsome, sensitive face darkened. I guess your mother will be a happy woman to-day. Read More Community Reviews 4. The human condition, religion, power, lust, a tropical setting, outsiders vs. Thought this was a very powerful His Inherent Sexual Nature vs. I consider Maugham as one of the top two or three short story writers of all time. His best is "Rain," one of the most powerful and symbolic short stories in the can Brits mostly men from the sun-deprived northern climes and in one case, an American arrive in the tropical South Pacific isles, mainly Tahiti, to shed their clothes If you like this sort of stuff A bit of melodrama based on a moral code that seems rather remote today What better person to write about flawed and vulnerable characters! In these tales, occurring ar Not all the stories are set in South East Asia, as the title erroneously indicates. It draws the setting for the South Sea stories that follow. The Pacific may shift They are all about people that have escaped to "warm weather" countries, due to health Maugham, captures this aspect of life and places it up front in every story. I understand that attitud Each has a twist in the tail which is why I want to go back and read it again. He is a master of prose It was sycophantic, and yet behind th

Chapter 2 : The Complete Short Stories Of W Somerset Maugham by Maugham, W Somerset

W. Somerset Maugham (-) was a British playwright, novelist and short story writer. Born in the British Embassy in Paris, where his father worked, Maugham was an orphan by the age of ten.

Somerset Maugham we have the theme of appearance, opportunity, dedication, independence and humility. Taken from his Collected Short Stories collection the story is narrated in the third person by an unnamed narrator and after reading the story the reader realises that Maugham may be exploring the theme of appearance. He prefers to keep it for weddings and funerals. Considering it more appropriate to wear the new gown for these occasions. This may be important as Maugham may be suggesting that appearance is important to Albert Edward. Similarly the vicar seems to think appearance is important too. Things like being able to read and write set a standard that the vicar believes everybody should attain. This may also be significant as it suggests that the vicar believes that the ability to read and write reflects on the good character of St. As a representative of St. He does not have the skills that the vicar thinks a verger must have. Maugham may also be exploring the theme of opportunity. Rather than being downcast about the fact that he has lost his job. Albert Edward turns his loss into an opportunity by deciding to set up a tobacconists and newsagents. From defeat Albert Edward manages to grasp victory and eventually owns ten shops. Which in many ways shows the dedication that Albert Edward has. It is this same dedication that had previously made him a successful verger. Once focused Albert Edward appears to throw all his energies into whatever effort verger or shop owner he is undertaking. It is as though Albert is driven not by profit but by a desire to be the best that he can be. Someone who appears to be aloof and disconnected from those around him. What the vicar considers to be important is not necessarily the same for others. Something that is noticeable by the fact that Albert Edward resigns his position from the church. Though some critics might suggest that being a verger is an important role in the church. That it has an element of prestige. It is not the same as being self-sufficient something that Albert now is with his ten shops. From being answerable to others the vicar Albert Edward has become his own boss. Answerable to nobody but himself. Which is a dramatic change in circumstances for Albert Edward and again it is probably important to remember that Albert Edward achieved everything he has without being able to read or write. If anything Albert Edward has been an underdog throughout the story. Forced to resign and still managing to make a success out of his life. The fact that the vicar also gave Albert Edward an ultimatum which Albert Edward decided against following shows that Albert Edward has an independent streak. He does not conform just because he is told to by the vicar. Rather Albert submits his resignation and continues on with the rest of his life. If anything Albert Edward remains undefeated. It may also be significant that Albert Edward does not allow the success he has go to his head. If anything he remains as humble as he was when he was a verger. Where others might use their success to live a dissolute life. This is not the case with Albert Edward. How humble Albert might actually be is noticeable by his reply to the bank manager when the bank manger wonders how successful Albert could have been if he did know how to read or write. By telling the bank manager that he would be the verger of St. He has not forgotten where he came from nor does he wish to change his past. It is as though Albert Edward despite having to resign from a position he enjoyed holds no animosity towards anybody the vicar. Albert Edward is living a satisfied life whereas others may not be as fortunate as Albert Edward. He has shown ingenuity and flexibility in his life. Something that the vicar was unable to do. If anything the vicar lived by a set of rigid rules that Albert Edward did not comply with nor did he wish to comply with. Albert Edward has made a success out of his life and remained humble throughout. Whereas the vicar may have been driven by his own inflated ego. Cite Post McManus, Dermot. The Sitting Bee, 3 Oct.

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About Maugham: Collected Short Stories. These 30 short stories, comprising Somerset Maugham's first collection, are set in locations ranging from England, France and Spain to the silver sands of the South Pacific.

First, I turned to the essay on Emily Bronte and Wuthering Heights for the simple reason that I read Wuthering Heights so many years ago that it is probably due for a re-read. This essay seemed like a good way to begin to re-acquaint myself with both the book and the author. I somehow managed to miss a revised edition that came out in Perhaps I will give myself a very late Christmas present I still have a voucher to spend and upgrade my original copy. It might seem obvious but the main fact to bear in mind when reading biographies about authors or indeed any historical person is that time and fresh documentary evidence often reveals a different picture. Apart from her poetry, juvenilia and her only novel, evidence is indirect. Though he does not give the full reference, it was taken from the earliest biography of Emily by Mary Robinson, which was published by W. A tall, thin, loose-jointed girl "not ugly, but with irregular features and a pallid thick complexion. Her dark hair was naturally beautiful, and in later days looked well, loosely fastened with a tall comb at the back of her head; but in she wore it in an unbecoming tight curl and frizz. She had beautiful eyes of a hazel colour. She was clearly an active girl, who loved the outdoors, perhaps one who would have been impatient with the restricted life of a well brought up lady. Physically she must have been what is often termed handsome, rather than conventionally pretty. Due to the lack of straightforward biographical evidence, many writers have tried to find the real Emily through her writing. On the other hand, Juliet Barker considers it misguided to use literary criticism. I assume that she places in that category the theory, to which Maugham and other literary critics subscribe, that Emily Bronte was a lesbian. However, he does mention that there was a graveyard on both sides of the parsonage, which some folks but not perhaps curates may have considered being a gloomy location. He also pointed out that the mood of the moorland varied with season and would not always have been wild and bleak. Indeed, he described his visit thus, The countryside was bathed in a haze of silver-grey so that the distance, its outlines dim, was mysterious. The leafless trees had the elegance of trees in a wintry scene in a Japanese print, and the hawthorn hedges by the roadside glistened white with hoar frost. They could obviously afford a servant Tabby Ackroyd to help around the house. Emily helped with domestic chores, and I liked the image of her kneading bread with a book propped up in front of her as she worked. Industrious yet slightly impractical: The fact that Maugham included Wuthering Heights in his ten most important novels, despite asserting that it is very badly written, intrigued me. Maugham is critical of the construction of the novel fitting two sets of events and characters into a unit and the unrealistic dialogue that Emily gives Nellie Dean to say. It is a very good one. It is a terrible, an agonizing, a powerful and a passionate book. He felt that she wanted to distance herself from events, in effect to in hide her from the passion. Now I do really need to read it again"let me know what you think! Drop a line in the comment box.

Chapter 4 : The Best Short Stories of William Somerset Maugham by W. Somerset Maugham

Somerset Maugham was one of the greatest English writers of short stories ever. As this set contains all of his stories, the reader will find many treasures (and some not so good). However, the very good to some of the best stories ever, far out number the turkeys.

The short story has often been selected for anthologies and is prescribed reading material for students attempting to master modern English literature. The adventure begins off on simple terms. A ship headed to Apia is stranded near Pago Pago as a Cholera epidemic is suspected and a quarantine is enforced to prevent an outbreak. Most of the travellers are ordinary folks headed on business and personal trips. Our attention is drawn to two couples who are travelling First Class and feel that they are a cut above socially than the remaining junta. His wife tends to follow his lead. However the Davidsons are altogether different fish – they are missionaries who are on their way back to their work – and they are vociferous in their views about the morals and habits of the local folks. Drama is surely in the making when the presence of Sadie Thompson is detected by the couple. Sadie occupies the lower floor of their common accommodation and is seen to be socially active and boisterous. Her evening parties are raucous and she entertains many men to much merriment. Without getting into specifics it dawns on Reverend Davidson that Sadie is immoral and leading a life of sin. His initial attempts to make her mend her ways lead to derision and dismissal on part of Sadie. This provokes a ferocity in Rev. Davidson that is masked by his missionary zeal. He employs all his will and schemes to organize for Sadie to be sent back to San Francisco where it is indicated that she at large from Law and likely to face a prison sentence. She has a change of heart and decides to mend her ways. In fact she takes a sharp u-turn towards spiritualism and Rev. Davidson willingly takes on the role of her mentor. The situation seems to be well under control and the Davidsons are a self-satisfied lot. Macphail is a bit skeptical and puzzled by the turn of events. He even has a premonition of something evil in the making though he cannot quite put his finger on it. Things pass on uneasily as Rev. Davidson is found to spend days at a stretch with Sadie in his bid to reform her. Outward appearance seem to show that he is succeeding in his cause. Sadie is so remorseful and submissive and she has accepted the need for her to be sentenced to prison. The cloistered environment of the island and the boarding house is reinforced by the relentless rain that pours throughout the day. And it indeed turns out to be precisely that – on the night before Sadie is to leave she seduces Rev. Davidson who succumbs to human frailties. Shocked at his fall from grace he commits suicide. The guilty knowledge betrays the murky past that Davidsons must have had before they turned to their current path of waging a war against sin. Davidson confronts Sadie about the tragedy. Sadie spits on her face and Mrs. Davidson beats a hurried retreat. You filthy, dirty pigs! Suddenly things are as clear as rain in the mind of Dr. Macphail and the average reader. Indeed a sardonic classic tale by a writer whom many critics chose to call a cynic.

Chapter 5 : Collected Short Stories: Volume 1 by W. Somerset Maugham

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Somerset Maugham we have the theme of contempt, control, honour, change, ego, appearance and honesty. Taken from his Collected Short Stories collection the story is narrated in the first person by an unnamed male and from the beginning of the story it becomes clear to the reader that Maugham may be exploring the theme of contempt. The narrator has a strong dislike for Kelada and appears to have firstly formulated his opinion based solely on the fact that he is forced to share a berth with Kelada. Which says a lot for the narrator who unlike Kelada is a very private man. The fact that the narrator also plays patience may be symbolically important as it is possible that Maugham is suggesting that the narrator likes his own space. Something that is made clearer to the reader by the fact that the narrator wishes to choose for himself where he sits in the dining room. It may also be important that Kelada chooses where the narrator sits as this would border on control. Kelada appears to like controlling a situation. Though some critics may suggest that Kelada is only being helpful the fact that he is chief organiser for the many activities on the ship further suggests that Kelada likes control. Kelada also appears to be thick skinned as it does not bother him that people on the ship call him Mr Know-All. On the contrary Kelada takes it as a compliment. In many ways Kelada is different to the other passengers on the ship. Nothing appears to faze him. Kelada does not wish to be seen as a fool which suggests that appearance is important to Kelada. It may also be a case that Kelada for the first time in the story fears losing control of a situation. Prior to being challenged Kelada was in control of not only himself but of others too. The fact that Kelada allows Ramsay win the wager says a lot about Kelada. This says a lot for Kelada as previously many readers might have had a similar view as the narrator when it came to Kelada. If anything Kelada put Mrs Ramsay first as he had previously done with the other passengers on the ship. Kelada might like controlling a situation but he also knows when it is appropriate to hold back. Something that Kelada does when it comes to the wager. Rather than embarrassing Mrs Ramsay Kelada allows himself to be the one that is embarrassed. Even if it means that he might be viewed upon differently by the other passengers on the ship. Kelada does not allow his ego to rule unlike Mr Ramsay. There is a sense that Kelada unlike Mr Ramsay is able to swallow his pride in order that an individual Mrs Ramsay is not offended. What is interesting about the end of the story is not the fact that the narrator changes his opinion about Kelada. Who the narrator now sees as a man of honour. But what is interesting is whether it was Mr or Mrs Ramsay who decided to return the hundred dollars. If anything it is likely that Mr and Mrs Ramsay had an honest conversation when they returned to their berth and Mrs Ramsay advised Mr Ramsay as to the exact cost of the pearl necklace. Something that Mr Ramsay would have been unaware of due to his being away from home so much. Where previously the focus for the entire story had been on Kelada at the end of the story it appears as though there may be frictions within the Ramsay marriage. However it is difficult to say for certain as to what Mrs Ramsay might have said as any conversation she may have had with her husband is private. Though being an honourable man Kelada never directly explains his words to the narrator who in reality may not need the line explained. Cite Post McManus, Dermot. *The Sitting Bee*, 27 Aug.

This first volume of Somerset Maugham's collected short stories includes the famous story 'Rain', the tragedy of the prudish missionary Mr Davidson and Sadie Thompson, the prostitute. The collection contains thirty stories that take us from the islands of the Pacific Ocean to England, France and.

He wrote only one book that was not of this character. It was a collection of essays that he had contributed to the solid magazines of the day and he issued it, as became his sense of decorum, anonymously. I once had the book in my hands, a handsome volume bound in calf, but I never read it and I have not been able to get hold of a copy since. I wish I had, for I might have learnt from it something of the kind of man he was. His elder brother, Viscount Maugham, enjoyed a distinguished legal career and served as Lord Chancellor from to His brothers were away at boarding school by the time Maugham was three. Edith died of tuberculosis six days later on 31 January at the age of The move was damaging. Henry Maugham was cold and emotionally cruel. He was teased for his bad English French had been his first language and his short stature, which he inherited from his father. Maugham developed a stammer that stayed with him all his life, although it was sporadic, being subject to his moods and circumstances. His uncle allowed him to travel to Germany, where he studied literature, philosophy and German at Heidelberg University. During his year in Heidelberg Maugham met and had a sexual affair with John Ellingham Brooks, an Englishman ten years his senior. His uncle tried to find Maugham a new profession. A career in the Church was rejected because a stammering clergyman might make the family appear ridiculous. Maugham had been writing steadily since he was 15, and wanted to be an author, but he did not tell his guardian. Early works[edit] W. Somerset Maugham Some critics have assumed that the years Maugham spent studying medicine were a creative dead end, but Maugham did not feel this way about this time. He was living in the great city of London, meeting people of a "low" sort whom he would never have met otherwise, and seeing them at a time of heightened anxiety and meaning in their lives. In maturity, he recalled the value of his experience as a medical student: I saw how they bore pain. I saw what hope looked like, fear and relief In , he published his first novel, *Liza of Lambeth*, a tale of working-class adultery and its consequences. Maugham wrote near the opening of the novel: Maugham, who had qualified as a medic, dropped medicine and embarked on his year career as a man of letters. He later said, "I took to it as a duck takes to water. This changed in with the success of his play *Lady Frederick*. By the next year, he had four plays running simultaneously in London, and *Punch* published a cartoon of Shakespeare biting his fingernails nervously as he looked at the billboards. Crowley took some offence at the treatment of the protagonist, Oliver Haddo. He wrote a critique of the novel, charging Maugham with plagiarism, in a review published in *Vanity Fair*. Popular success, 39[edit] By , Maugham was famous, with 10 plays produced and 10 novels published. Cummings, and Ernest Hemingway. He proofread *Of Human Bondage* at a location near Dunkirk during a lull in his ambulance duties. The influential American novelist and critic Theodore Dreiser rescued the novel, referring to it as a work of genius and comparing it to a Beethoven symphony. His review gave the book a lift, and it has never been out of print since. Maugham gave Philip Carey a club foot rather than his stammer; the vicar of Blackstable appears derived from the vicar of Whitstable; and Carey is a medic. Maugham insisted the book was more invention than fact. He wrote in They had a daughter named Mary Elizabeth Maugham 39 Syrie Maugham became a noted interior decorator who in the s popularized "the all-white room". Their daughter was familiarly called Liza and her surname was changed to Maugham. The marriage was unhappy, and the couple separated. I tried to persuade myself that I was three-quarters normal and that only a quarter of me was queer 39 whereas really it was the other way around. With that completed, he was eager to assist the war effort again. As he was unable to return to his ambulance unit, Syrie arranged for him to be introduced to a high-ranking intelligence officer known as "R"; he was recruited by John Wallinger. Maugham lived in Switzerland as a writer. Maugham subsequently said that if he had been able to get there six months earlier, he might have succeeded. Quiet and observant, Maugham had a good temperament for intelligence work; he believed he had inherited from his lawyer father a gift for cool judgment and the ability to be undecieved by facile appearances. Or the British Agent, a collection of short

stories about a gentlemanly, sophisticated, aloof spy. This was a collection of 58 ultra-short story sketches, which he had written during his travels through China and Hong Kong, intending to expand the sketches later as a book. This was the first of his journeys through the late-Imperial world of the 1890s and 1900s which inspired his novels. He became known as a writer who portrayed the last days of colonialism in India, Southeast Asia, China and the Pacific, although the books on which this reputation rests represent only a fraction of his output. On this and all subsequent journeys, he was accompanied by Haxton, whom he regarded as indispensable to his success as a writer. Maugham was painfully shy, and Haxton the extrovert gathered human material which the author converted to fiction. Later, he asked that Katharine Cornell play the lead in the Broadway version. In 1916, Cornell was a great success playing the lead in his comedy *The Constant Wife*. There he hosted one of the great literary and social salons of the 1910s and 1920s. He continued to be highly productive, writing plays, short stories, novels, essays and travel books. By 1940, when the collapse of France and its occupation by the German Third Reich forced Maugham to leave the French Riviera, he was a refugee but one of the wealthiest and most famous writers in the English-speaking world. Death is both the narrator and a central character. Grand old man of letters[edit] Maugham, by then in his sixties, spent most of the Second World War in the United States, first in Los Angeles he worked on many scripts, and was one of the first authors to make significant money from film adaptations and later in the South. While in the US, he was asked by the British government to make patriotic speeches to induce the US to aid Britain, if not necessarily become an allied combatant. After his companion Gerald Haxton died in 1942, Maugham moved back to England. Maugham began a relationship with Alan Searle, whom he had first met in 1938. A young man from the London slum area of Bermondsey, Searle had already been kept by older men. He proved a devoted if not a stimulating companion. In order not to hurt their feelings, I have often acted a passion I did not feel. Maugham publicly disowned her and claimed she was not his biological daughter. He adopted Searle as his son and heir, but the adoption was annulled. In his volume of memoirs, *Looking Back*, he attacked the late Syrie Maugham and wrote that Liza had been born before they married. The memoir cost him several friends and exposed him to much public ridicule. Thereafter the copyrights passed to the Royal Literary Fund. There is no grave for Maugham. One of her grandchildren is Derek Paravicini, who is a musical prodigy and autistic savant. Small and weak as a boy, Maugham had been proud even then of his stamina, and as an adult he kept churning out the books, proud that he could. Yet, despite his triumphs, he never attracted the highest respect from the critics or his peers. Maugham attributed this to his lack of "lyrical quality", his small vocabulary, and failure to make expert use of metaphor in his work. In the American journalist and radio personality Alexander Woollcott offered Maugham some language advice: Whether his own orientation disgusted him as it did many at a time when homosexuality was widely considered a moral failing as well as illegal or whether he was trying to disguise his leanings, Maugham wrote disparagingly of the gay artist. In *Don Fernando*, a non-fiction book about his years living in Spain, Maugham pondered a perhaps fanciful suggestion that the painter El Greco was homosexual: It cannot be denied that the homosexual has a narrower outlook on the world than the normal man. In certain respects the natural responses of the species are denied to him. Some at least of the broad and typical human emotions he can never experience. However subtly he sees life he cannot see it whole Since he tended to see attractive women as sexual rivals, he often gave his women characters sexual needs and appetites, in a way quite unusual for authors of his time. Toward the end of his career he described himself as "in the very first row of the second-raters". Maugham had begun collecting theatrical paintings before the First World War; he continued to the point where his collection was second only to that of the Garrick Club. From 1938, some 14 years before his death, his paintings began their exhibition life. In 1942 they were placed on loan to the Theatre Museum in Covent Garden. Please help improve this article by adding citations to reliable sources. Unsourced material may be challenged and removed. The *Moon and Sixpence* is about the life of Paul Gauguin; and *Cakes and Ale* contains what were taken as thinly veiled and unflattering characterisations of the authors Thomas Hardy who had died two years previously and Hugh Walpole. Maugham himself denied any intention of doing this in a long letter to Walpole: He is made up of a dozen people and the greater part of him is myself" but yet in an introduction written for the Modern Library edition of the work, he plainly states that Walpole was the inspiration for *Kear* while denying that Thomas Hardy was the inspiration for the

novelist Drifffield. While much of the novel takes place in Europe, its main characters are American, not British. The protagonist is a disillusioned veteran of the First World War who abandons his wealthy friends and lifestyle, traveling to India seeking enlightenment. It was adapted into a major motion picture released in , then again in starring Bill Murray. Among his short stories, some of the most memorable are those dealing with the lives of Western, mostly British, colonists in the Far East. They typically express the emotional toll the colonists bear by their isolation.

Chapter 7 : Maugham: Collected Short Stories by W. Somerset Maugham | calendrierdelascience.com

This elegant edition of W. Somerset Maugham's Best Short Stories features an afterword by writer and journalist Ned Halley. Designed to appeal to the booklover, the Macmillan Collector's Library is a series of beautiful gift editions of much loved classic titles.

Chapter 8 : Review of Somerset Maugham's Short Story "Rain" A Writer's Notebook.

7 Introduction Somerset Maugham's short stories are among the most accessible in all English literature. They are wonderfully easy to read. Maugham addresses the.

Chapter 9 : Short Story Analysis: The Verger by W. Somerset Maugham - The Sitting Bee

I have included some publication history for Individual Short Stories in the second section; the information is taken from Raymond Toole Stott's A Bibliography of the Works of W. Somerset Maugham (), except when indicated otherwise.