

《The Moonstone(Wordsworth Classics)月亮宝石

9781853260445》

书籍信息

版次：1

页数：438

字数：

印刷时间：1997年08月01日

开本：32开

纸张：胶版纸

包装：平装

是否套装：否

国际标准书号ISBN：9781853260445

编辑推荐

Spotlight Reviews

1. The First and Greatest English Detective Novel?, May 12, 2003

Reviewer: A. Wolverton (Crofton, MD United States)

As many reviewers have noted, T.S. Eliot called 'The Moonstone' "the first and greatest English detective novel." Is the novel worthy of such praise? We shall see...

The story begins with a brief prologue describing how the famous yellow diamond was captured during a military campaign in India by a British officer in 1799. The action moves quickly to 1848 England, where, according to the British officer's will, the diamond has been given to one of the soldier's young relatives, Rachel Verinder. Yet only hours after the diamond arrives at the Verinder estate, it disappears. Was it stolen by a relative? A servant? And who are these three Indian men who keep hanging around the estate?

'The Moonstone' is told from the point of view of several characters. The first portion of the tale is told by Gabriel Betteredge, house steward of the Verinder estate, who has been working for the family practically his entire life. Although over 200 pages, Betteredge's account holds the reader's interest as he introduces the main players and the crime itself. The next account, by distant Verinder relative Miss Clack, is humorous and somewhat important, but far too long (nearly 100 pages) for its relevance to the story. But after Miss Clack's account, things really take off at breakneck speed.

Readers who latch onto the T.S. Eliot quote expecting a modern detective tale will be sorely disappointed. You aren't going to see anything resembling Jeffrey Deaver, James Patterson, Sue Grafton, or even Mary Higgins Clark. You also won't see Mickey Spillane, Dashiell Hammett, or Raymond Chandler. Nor will you see Agatha Christie, Dorothy Sayers, or Martha Grimes. You won't even see Arthur Conan Doyle. But you WILL see the novel that influenced them all.

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内容简介

在线阅读本书

The Moonstone, a priceless Indian diamond which had come to England as spoils of war, is given to Rachel Verrinder on her 18th birthday. That night, the stone is stolen. The phlegmatic Sergeant Cuff is called in, and with the help of the loquacious steward, Betteredge, the mystery is solved.

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作者简介

Wilkie Collins Wilkie Collins (William Wilkie Collins), 1824 – 89, English novelist. Although trained as a lawyer, he spent most of his life writing, producing some 30 novels. He is best known for two mystery stories, *The Woman in White* (1860) and *The Moonstone* (1868), which are considered the first full-length detective novels in English and among the best of their genre; they helped to define the genre of literary melodrama which would peak at the end of the century. Collins's heroines are drawn with considerable clarity and sympathy. He was a friend of Dickens, in whose periodical *Household Words* many of Collins's novels first appeared.

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