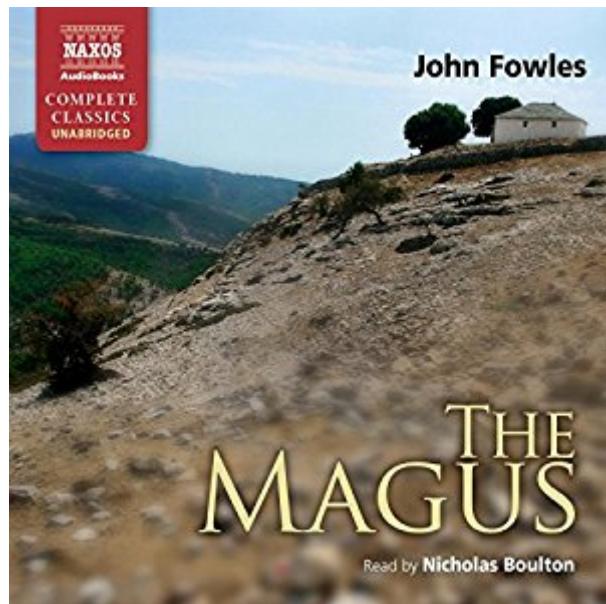


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The Magus



Synopsis

John Fowles' *The Magus* was a literary landmark of the 1960s. Nicholas Urfe goes to a Greek island to teach at a private school and becomes enmeshed in curious happenings at the home of a mysterious Greek recluse, Maurice Conchis. Are these events, involving attractive young English sisters, just psychological games, or an elaborate joke, or more? Reality shifts as the story unfolds. *The Magus* reflected the issues of the 1960s perfectly, but even almost half a century after its first publication, it continues to create tension and concern, remaining the page-turner that it was when it was first released.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 26 hours and 19 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Naxos AudioBooks

Audible.com Release Date: September 7, 2012

Language: English

ASIN: B009AGAP0A

Best Sellers Rank: #43 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Fiction & Literature > Erotica #156 in Books > Literature & Fiction > Erotica > Suspense #355 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Fiction & Literature > Classics

Customer Reviews

I first read this in college (over 25 years ago) when a very worldly boyfriend gave it to me. It captured me then, and stayed with me so that I had to purchase another copy to re-read and to really savor this time around. Not the most perfect story ever written, but it evokes such a sense of place, and the unreality of living in another country. This is reasonably priced and is such a classic, so a tasty morsel that you will mentally savor for years, I wholly recommend it.

I first read this book when I was young, back in the day...It bamboozled me. Now that I'm a better reader, I found it a great read, timeless, and a great escape. We tend to forget that later versions of this kind of magical plot; "The Truman Show", "The Game," used this original plot device, what is real and what is not? *The Magus* is a great read!

The opening pages of *The Magus* show the hero to be a self-absorbed, if not unlikable, womanizing hedonist bent on self-discovery at any cost. He wants to experience all that life has to offer, but is unsure how to do so. The dilemma is a hedonist's worst nightmare and what ensues is nothing less than his own worst nightmare. He falls in love a little and feels suffocated. For lack of a better plan, he takes a job overseas and gets in with a mysterious Keyzer Soze-type character about whom little is known but cautionary tales abound. Then everything falls apart. It starts with a glove. Then a mysterious dinner party. Hero surprises his host only to find that he was expected all along as demonstrated by his own place setting at the table. The chaos level rises as a series of mysterious and troubling events designed (or apparently designed) to unhinge him work their magic on his mind. What follows is a cat-and-mouse mystery that leaves the reader unsure whether the narrator/hero is seriously losing it or in serious jeopardy of bodily harm (that the whole thing is not imagined and, in fact, a ruthless death plot is a very real possibility). This is a tough thing to do with first person narratives and the beauty of this novel is that you don't know until the very end. The clues are there (the ending never feels like a rip-off; like they backed the camera up before the car went over the cliff) and savvy readers may figure it out in advance. But I don't know anyone who has.

Yes to this book. Yes to John Fowles. If you like more odd/creepy writing, this is for you.

The author uses lots of big words, lots of Greek words, read the ebook version so you can have the dictionary readily at hand. At certain points I thought the author was just putting words to paper trying to make himself appear intellectual and cerebral, and the ending a definite let down.

John Fowles' now underappreciated novel is a mystical morality play on love, truth, maturity, reality and sexual and emotional betrayal. "The Magus" is set on a Greek island lush in the legends of Apollo, Artemis, Orpheus and Eurydice, and involves our protagonist, Nicholas Urfe, a mysterious island local and pretty young English ladies. While the year of the story is 1953 in the aftermath of WWII, in many ways it seems as timely as today. If you read reviews, you won't get much more of a description, other than below a Spoiler Alert heading. To explain it more would require pages and would, in many ways, be like explaining the recent novel "Gone Girl" or the movie "The Sixth Sense": it would ruin the whole experience for you. Like *Gone Girl*, I could NOT put it down. Truly in its own league, particularly considering it was published nearly 50 years ago.

This is one of the best books I have ever read. Mysterious, exciting, moving, and mocking. Simple yet complex. Stunning.

Deeply erudite, ... Profoundly well thought out and set forth, ... Splendidly, engagingly challenging read, ... Thank you John Fowles, ...

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