

The Fascinating Secret Lives of Somerset Maugham: A Biography

The Early Years

Somerset Maugham, born in 1874, was a renowned British playwright, novelist, and short-story writer. While his literary achievements are well-documented, much of his personal life remained shrouded in secrecy. Delving into his biography reveals a complex and adventurous existence that often mirrored the intriguing characters he portrayed in his works.

A Globe-Trotting Journey

Maugham's wanderlust was insatiable, and his travels influenced his writing immensely. From his time spent in the exotic Far East to his experiences in Europe and North America, Maugham absorbed diverse cultures and incorporated them into his narratives. His relentless desire to explore the world allowed him to gather a plethora of fascinating experiences, shaping him as both an individual and an artist.

A Mysterious Love Life

Although Maugham was outwardly discreet about his romantic entanglements, he led a life filled with intense relationships and passionate affairs. From his complicated connection with Syrie Wellcome, his first wife, to his later affairs with various men and women, Maugham's love life was enigmatic and scandalous. Unveiling the hidden details of his amorous encounters adds an extra layer of intrigue to his captivating persona.

The Secret Lives of Somerset Maugham: A Biography by Selina Hastings (Kindle Edition)



★ ★ ★ ★ ☆	4.5 out of 5
Language	: English
File size	: 8269 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 857 pages



A Controversial Political Stand

Throughout his life, Maugham's political views often raised eyebrows within the British establishment. He occasionally stirred controversy by voicing opinions that challenged the status quo. His experiences during World War I and World War II broadened his perspectives, leading to the development of strong anti-war sentiments. Uncovering Maugham's political stance provides valuable insights into the influences that shaped his writing and persona.

The Secret Correspondence

Maugham maintained an extensive network of correspondents, including renowned literary figures and influential politicians. However, one of the most intriguing aspects of his private life was his secret communication with various intelligence agencies. His involvement in intelligence work during both world wars adds yet another cloak of mystery to his already enigmatic character.

Legacy and Impact

Maugham's literary contributions continue to resonate with readers worldwide. His keen observations of human nature and vivid storytelling have stood the test

of time. With an in-depth understanding of the complexities of the human condition, Maugham's works have left an indelible mark on the literary world.

The Unraveling of the Secrets

The unveiling of Somerset Maugham's secret lives serves to humanize the prodigious author, offering a glimpse into the motivations and inspirations behind his masterpieces. While his public persona may have been composed and refined, his private life was far from ordinary. Exploring the hidden facets of his life allows readers to forge a deeper connection with both the man and the artist.

The secret lives of Somerset Maugham reveal a captivating and multifaceted individual who lived a life that matched the intrigue of his literary creations. From his adventurous travels to his mysterious romantic endeavors, Maugham's biography is replete with revelations that enhance our understanding of his works. Delving into the secretive world of this remarkable writer is a journey worth embarking on, as it allows us to discover the hidden depths and unique experiences that shaped his artistic brilliance.



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He was a brilliant teller of tales, one of the most widely read authors of the twentieth century, and at one time the most famous writer in the world, yet W. Somerset Maugham's own true story has never been fully told. At last, the fascinating truth is revealed in a landmark biography by the award-winning writer Selina Hastings. Granted unprecedented access to Maugham's personal correspondence and to newly uncovered interviews with his only child, Hastings portrays the secret loves, betrayals, integrity, and passion that inspired Maugham to create such classics as *The Razor's Edge* and *Of Human Bondage*.

Hastings vividly presents Maugham's lonely childhood spent with unloving relatives after the death of his parents, a trauma that resulted in shyness, a stammer, and for the rest of his life an urgent need for physical tenderness. Here, too, are his adult triumphs on the stage and page, works that allowed him a glittering social life in which he befriended and sometimes fell out with such luminaries as Dorothy Parker, Charlie Chaplin, D. H. Lawrence, and Winston Churchill.

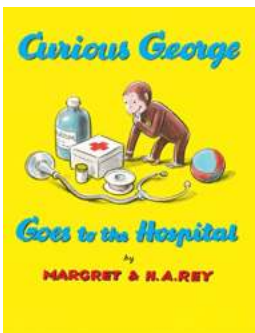
The *Secret Lives of Somerset Maugham* portrays in full for the first time Maugham's disastrous marriage to Syrie Wellcome, a manipulative society woman of dubious morality who trapped Maugham with a pregnancy and an attempted suicide. Hastings also explores Maugham's many affairs with men, including his great love, Gerald Haxton, an alcoholic charmer and a cad. Maugham's courageous work in secret intelligence during two world wars is described in fascinating detail—experiences that provided the inspiration for the groundbreaking *Ashenden* stories. From the West End to Broadway, from China to the South Pacific, Maugham's restless and remarkably productive life is thrillingly recounted as Hastings uncovers the real stories behind such classics as "Rain," *The Painted Veil*, *Cakes & Ale*, and other well-known tales.

An epic biography of a hugely talented and hugely conflicted man, *The Secret Lives of Somerset Maugham* is the definitive account of Maugham's extraordinary life.



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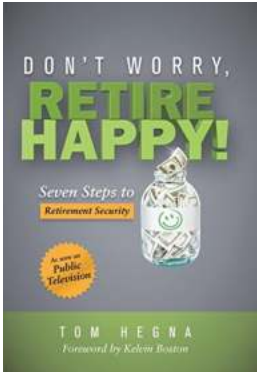
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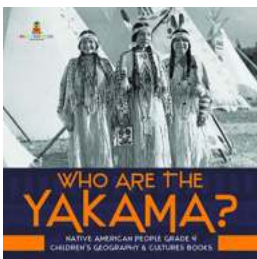
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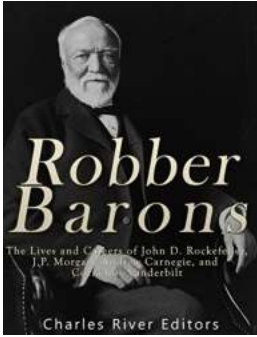
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