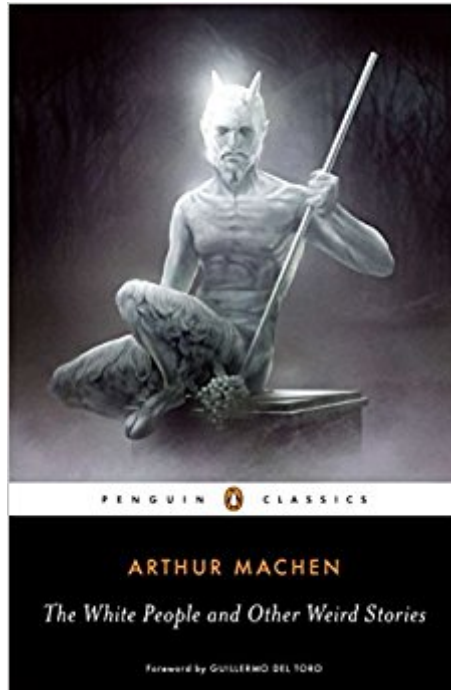


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The White People And Other Weird Stories (Penguin Classics)



Synopsis

Classic tales of the fantastic, creepy and weird, with a foreword from Guillermo Del Toro—Machen's weird tales of the creepy and fantastic finally come to Penguin Classics. With an introduction from S.T. Joshi, editor of *American Supernatural Tales*, *The White People and Other Weird Stories* is the perfect introduction to the father of weird fiction. The title story "The White People" is an exercise in the bizarre leaving the reader disoriented and on edge. From the first page, Machen turns even fundamental truths upside-down, as his character Ambrose explains, "there have been those who have sounded the very depths of sin, who all their lives have never done an 'ill deed'" setting the stage for a tale entirely without logic. For more than seventy years, Penguin has been the leading publisher of classic literature in the English-speaking world. With more than 1,700 titles, Penguin Classics represents a global bookshelf of the best works throughout history and across genres and disciplines. Readers trust the series to provide authoritative texts enhanced by introductions and notes by distinguished scholars and contemporary authors, as well as up-to-date translations by award-winning translators.

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Customer Reviews

I attended last night's Penguin Classics signing by S. T. Joshi, and although they had gobs and gobs of the newly-published Deluxe Edition of *THE CALL OF CTHULHU AND OTHER WEIRD STORIES*, they had but ONE copy of the Machen. I had already ordered it here at , and thus I was happy to see some other fellow who really wanted it and bought that copy. S. T. said that Penguin

were initially hesitant to publish the book, but they finally told him that if he could get Guillermo del Toro to write a Foreword, they'd publish it. It looks like they commissioned a new cover illustration of Pan, and that's odd since "The Great God Pan" does not appear in the book. The Contents are: "The Ecstasy of St. Arthur," Foreword by Guillermo del Toro, Introduction by S. T. Joshi, Suggestions for Further Reading, A Note on the Texts, The Inmost Light, Novel of the Black Seal, Novel of the White Powder, The Red Hand, The White People, A Fragment of Life, The Bowman, The Soldier's Rest, The Great Return, Out of the Earth, The Terror, Explanatory Notes. Some people don't like Notes and Annotations. I love them and find that they enhance my enjoyment of an author. S. T. is so well read in the weird fiction field that he has a vast knowledge of things therein, and so his Notes are always illuminating. He begins each note with the writing/publication history of the tale, and the Notes then pertain to foreign words, historical aspects and the like. This is a good solid selection of Machen's amazing weird fiction. The strangeness that these tales evoke, the threat of lingering aspects of the past, the trespassing into arcane realms, is in a class all its own.

Contrary to the fact that the beautiful cover illustration appears to be a depiction of Pan, and in spite of the fact that both Guillermo Del Toro and S.T. Joshi discuss the story in their respective foreword and introduction, Arthur Machen's most acclaimed story, "The Great God Pan," is not included in this otherwise seminal collection. Not that I'm complaining, mind you - just giving a heads up to those who might be thinking of purchasing this collection on the assumption that the story is included. I never provided their helpful LOOK INSIDE! option during the many months prior to WHITE PEOPLE's release, and there is still no "Table of Contents" option, which is unusual in my experience. Yes, you can easily scroll down and find the book's table of contents if you really want to, but I imagine there are many prospective buyers who will reasonably presume that the story is included based on both the misleading cover art and the fact that it is the author's most famous work. Anyways, the truth is that because "Pan" is the most frequently reprinted of all Machen's work, it's a fairly safe assumption that most readers interested in THE WHITE PEOPLE AND OTHER WEIRD STORIES are already familiar with it. So I understand at least one reason why the editor might have chosen not to include it, although I suspect the real reason has more to do with Joshi's comment in the introduction that "The White People" is an "infinitely better" story than "Pan." "Infinitely better"? Seriously? Sorry, but you must be (clears throat) joshing. While I happen to agree that "White People" is the more impressive and unsettling story - it is in fact my favorite of the author's works - I also recognize "Pan" as being an utterly fantastic and essential Machen tale. So.

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