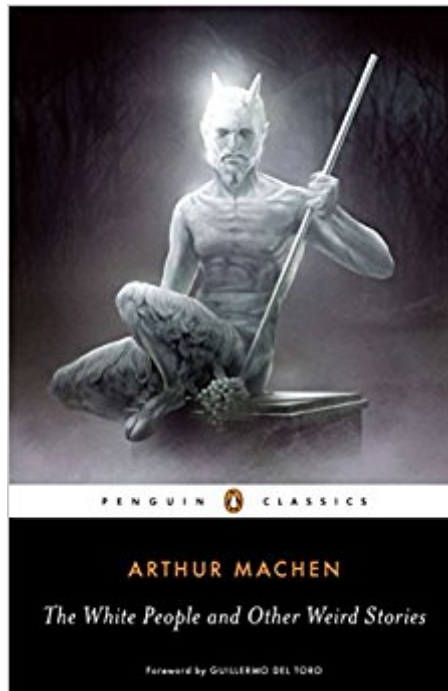




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The White People And Other Weird Stories (Penguin Classics)



Synopsis

Classic tales of the fantastic, creepy and weird, with a foreword from Guillermo Del Toro— M. R. James'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, James 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

"The pleasure of rediscovering these stories or experiencing them for the first time is sure to be amplified by the insightful foreword by filmmaker Guillermo del Toro (*Pan's Labyrinth*) and the excellent introduction by S. T. Joshi." — Craig Smith "As a selection of 'weird' short stories, *The White People* is a fine example of the precursor to what has become a popular subgenre of

fantasy fiction, as well as a window on to the spiritual concerns of the Welsh author Arthur Machen (1863-1947): the veil separating the phenomenal world and the supernal realm is thin. While we may have forgotten the rituals, spells, charms and wards once used to commune with the spirits, the spirits have not forgotten us." *Times Literary Supplement*

Arthur Machen (Arthur Llewelyn Jones), a Welsh author of supernatural, fantasy, and horror fiction, was born on March 3, 1863. He grew up in Caerleon, Monmouthshire, and attended boarding school at Hereford Cathedral School. He moved to London in 1881 and worked as a journalist, children's tutor, and publisher's clerk, finding time to write at night. By 1894, Machen had his first major success. *The Great God Pan* was published by John Lane, and despite widespread criticism for its sexual and horrific content, it sold well and went into a second edition. In the 1920s Machen's work became immensely popular in the United States, but Machen experienced increasing poverty; he was saved in 1931 by receiving a Civil List pension from the British government. Arthur Machen died on March 30, 1947. S. T. Joshi (b. 1958) is the author of such critical studies as *The Modern Weird Tale* (2001). His exhaustive biography, *H. P. Lovecraft: A Life* (1996), won the British Fantasy Award and the Bram Stoker Award from the Horror Writers Association. Guillermo del Toro (b. 1964) is a Mexican director, producer, screenwriter, novelist and designer. He is most recognized for his Academy Award-winning films, *Pan's Labyrinth* and the *Hellboy* film franchise. He is an avid fan of weird fiction and fantasy writing and the genres heavily inspire his movies.

Arguably the greatest Welsh author of all time, Arthur Machen is one of the most legendary and influential writers of his time; although, his work can be hard to find these days where people tend to shy away from older literature. Penguin Classics always provide a great introduction to any author for new readers, as well as an excellent compilation for seasoned fans of Machen or other weird tales. Machen, a Welshman that hit the scene a few decades before Lovecraft, is one of the fathers of supernatural literature, fantastical tales, horror stories, and most of all: the so called "weird tale" which is an eclectic literary splicing of all three. This book is a must have for any fans of Lovecraft or the aforementioned genres. In addition to Arthur Machen, some of his contemporaries and other similar authors that I highly recommend, all of which have a wonderful Penguin Classics edition of their tales as well, include Algernon Blackwood, Ambrose Bierce, Clark Ashton Smith, and Lord Dunsany.

This book is fantastic it gives you a great example of his writing skills and the stories will blow you

away anyone who loves suspense horror and action will love the stories.

The White People one of the most macabre stories I have ever read. Machen was a genius.

Nice compendium of stories. I read it straight through.

It's my thing, admittedly .It's not for everyone.especially if you aremore accustomed to the popular fiction today.It's ironic, somewhat misleading, as in the theme is not quite what the reader is led to believe.

After reading Lovecraft's treatise Supernatural Horror in Literature, I decided to delve into the authors he discussed, including Algernon Blackwood, MR. James, and Arthur Machen. Machen's work was the first I chose to read, and let me say I was not disappointed. Although not every story in this collection is thrilling (A Fragment of Life was rather boring), I found myself loving the overall eerie and suggestive feel of his work. It is rich with atmosphere. Over each page coils a mist of something simultaneously primal, cosmic, and haunting. This is not horror, necessarily. Rather it conveys more subtle impressions than outright fear. It acts as a gentle brush of chill air on the skin, rather than an abrupt slap in the face. Very unique.

It's best to just read this one and not talk about it.Arthur is a master of the ghost story.

Being a H.P: Lovecraft fan for many years, I highly recommend this book to all HPL fans

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