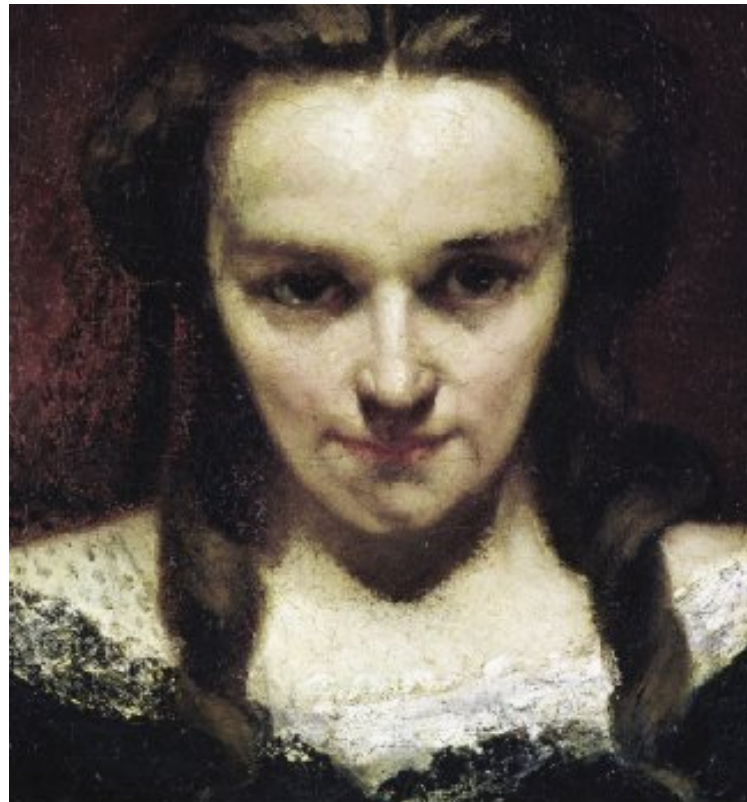


(Library ebook) Uncle Silas: A Tale of Bartram-Haugh (Penguin Modern Classics)

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Von J. Le Fanu

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Uncle Silas

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Von J. Le Fanu : Uncle Silas: A Tale of Bartram-Haugh (Penguin Modern Classics) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Uncle Silas: A Tale of Bartram-Haugh (Penguin Modern Classics):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen5 von 5 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A masterly specimen of the sensation novelVon Tristram ShandyAlthough in his foreword J.S. Le Fanu remonstrates against "Uncle Silas" (1864) being classified as a sensation novel, claiming rather to be inspired by the great and noble

writings of Sir Walter Scott, this novel is actually one of the best examples of the kind of fiction so vehemently rejected by Le Fanu. The sensation novel, having its heyday in the 1860s and 1870s, focuses on dark and heinous crimes such as murder, abduction, or rape, and on themes like lunacy, and sinister family secrets, placing them - unlike the classical gothic novel - not into a romantic and remote, but into a familiar and contemporary setting. It can therefore be said that sensation novels are forerunners of our present-day detective stories. "Uncle Silas" deals with Maud Ruthyn, who is the heiress to an immense fortune and who lives together with her recluse of a father, Austin Ruthyn, in a vast old mansion. The family reputation suffered considerably from Austin's brother Silas. A rake and a gambler, he finally got married to a woman of lower rank and, finding himself reduced to abject poverty, he eventually incurred the suspicion of having murdered a man he had invited into his house in order to get hold of this man's money. As years went by, Uncle Silas seemed to have reformed his ways and taken refuge to religion. His brother, intending to prove that he never doubted Silas's innocence with regard to the murder charge, announces his will to place Maud as a ward under his brother's guardianship after his death. After Austin Ruthyn has died of a heart attack, his last will is effected, and Maud comes to live at Bartram-Haugh in Derbyshire, the mansion allotted to Uncle Silas. This transaction causes much dismay among Maud's cousin Monica and Dr. Bryerly, a friend of her father's, because they still believe that Silas had a hand in the sudden death of his guest all those years ago. Unfortunately Silas Ruthyn has never mended his ways and still stands in need of money so that at first he tries to marry his ward to his son Dudley, but, this plan failing, he does not shirk from meaner plans to take possession of the family fortune, availing himself of the services of Maud's former governess Mme de la Rougierre and of other blackguards. The novel has a very straightforward plot and uses a limited set of characters, which makes it very suspenseful. Le Fanu's descriptions of empty and abandoned mansions, dark nights and, above all, the demonic Uncle Silas, who never leaves his chamber and, vampire-like, seems to thrive on the fear with which he inspires Maud, make this novel an extremely beautiful treat. The few characters that there are are depicted very graphically, especially the evil, grotesque Mme de la Rougierre, Maud's nemesis, and Maud's boorish cousin Dudley. Le Fanu chose to write his story with Maud as a first-person-narrator, which has the advantage of creating a nightmarish atmosphere, because Maud has a strangely incoherent way of telling things at times, leaving empty spaces in the narrative thread which have to be filled up later. On the other hand, Le Fanu is stuck with Maud's point of view, which makes it necessary for him to have other characters tell her about certain episodes essential to the narrative - this creates a rather awkward effect. Another shortcoming of the novel is the naivety of the heroine, who really is artificially blind to the net that is spun around her. In other situations, however, Maud is very energetic and self-confident, which ranks her way above the unbearably childlike heroines of Dickens. But for all these little critical points I can fully recommend "Uncle Silas" because of its dense and eerie atmosphere, the magnificent drawing of its characters and the suspense the novel creates.

6 von 6 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Halb Krimi und halb Gothic Novel Von Schulthe, Hendrik Der irische Autor Le Fanu schuf mit diesem Roman nicht nur einen Klassiker der Gothic Novel-Literatur, sondern auch einen Klassiker des Genres Kriminalliteratur. Erzählt wird aus der Perspektive einer etwas naiven Infantin, Erbin eines groen Vermögens. Der Roman lebt u.a. davon, da aufgrund der etwas berspannten und naiven Sichtweise der Erzherin nicht so ganz klar ist, ob wirklich bernatrliche Ereignisse im Hause ihres Vormundes Onkel Silas vonstattengehen - ein klassischer Trick der gothic novel. Zuletzt gibt es eine kriminalistische Auflsung, was "Onkel Silas" gemeinsam mit "Der Monddiamant" (W. Collins) und "Das Geheimnis des Edwin Drood" (C. Dickens) zu einem DER Grundpfeiler des britischen Krimis macht. Aus heutiger Perspektive eine gefllige, zuzeiten etwas langatmige Lektre von hoher literarischer, zeitloser Gte. Als Spannungsroman funktioniert das Werk fr heutige Lesegewohnheit vielleicht nur noch mit Einschrnkungen, aber psychologisch und stilistisch berzeugt Le Fanu (auch in bersetzung) allemal.

3 von 3 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Great stuff Von Ein Kunde This is a real rip-snorter of a gothic novel. Eighteen-year-old Maude, whose mother is dead, has been raised by her wealthy father, an adherent to a peculiar Scandinavian science religion. There are dark rumors afoot about the character of Maude's father's brother, the mysterious Uncle Silas, into whose guardianship Maude is entrusted at her father's death. Maude is the only thing standing between the money she will inherit from her father (when she comes of age) and Silas' considerable debt. Laudanum addiction, poison, big old houses with uninhabited wings, a creepy cousin (Silas' son), and an evil French governess: if you like gothic novels, this one's got it all.

Kurzbeschreibung One of the most significant and intriguing Gothic novels of the Victorian period and is enjoyed today as a modern psychological thriller. In UNCLE SILAS (1864) Le Fanu brought up to date Mrs Radcliffe's earlier tales of virtue imprisoned and menaced by unscrupulous schemers. The narrator, Maud Ruthyn, is a 17 year old orphan left in the care of her fearful uncle, Silas. Together with his boorish son and a sinister French governess, Silas plots to kill Maud and claim her fortune. The novel established Le Fanu as a master of horror fiction.

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