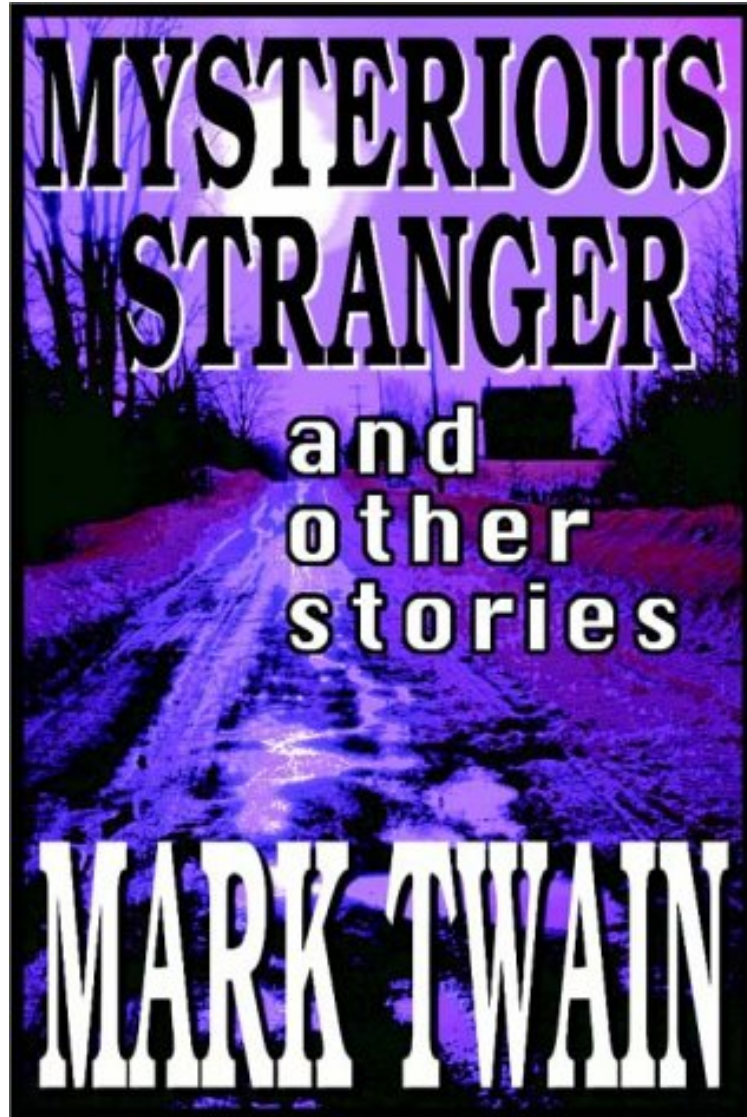


Mysterious Stranger Other Stories

Mark Twain

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Mark Twain : Mysterious Stranger Other Stories before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Mysterious Stranger Other Stories:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Mark Twain In a Darker Voice By Alan L. Chase A very knowledgeable friend of mine asked me not long ago about my appreciation of the writing of Mark Twain. I talked about the usual highlights: "Tom Sawyer," "Huckleberry Finn," "A Connecticut Yankee In King Arthur's Court." He asked if I were familiar with the novella, "The Mysterious Stranger." When I confessed my ignorance, he strongly recommended that I read it, and so I did. In this compilation of the novella and three short stories, this familiar writer speaks in an unfamiliar voice. Toward the end of his life, Samuel Clemens became quite cynical and curmudgeonly.

The novella "The Mysterious Stranger" was published posthumously in 1916, and reflects his later life jaundiced views of God, mankind, and the universe in general. In the story "The Man That Corrupted Hadleyburg," the narrative is centered on a town this is renowned for the unshakable honesty of each of its citizens. A mysterious stranger comes to town, leaves a bag of money with clear instructions of what is to be done. The instructions are written in a way that is almost guaranteed to test the moral mettle of the town residents. As the possibility of getting their hands on the money dawns on some of the town's most prominent citizens, the fabric of their rectitude begins to unravel. In this tale, Twain shows a depth of understanding of human frailty and the human psyche that is disturbingly accurate. The novella "The Mysterious Stranger" treats the topic of an alluring young man who calls himself "Satan." He bedazzles a group of naive young men, and using his Angel of Light seduction sleight of hand, leads them on a merry chase across the universe. Reading this fascinating story reminded me of the oft-repeated phrase that the Devil's greatest accomplishment was convincing mankind that he does not exist. On the final page, Twain shares what appears to be his ultimate nihilistic philosophy of life, spoken by "Satan": "It is true, that which I have revealed to you; there is no God, no universe, no human race, no earthly life, no heaven, no hell. It is all a dream - a grotesque and foolish dream. Nothing exists but you. And you are but a thought - a vagrant thought, a useless thought, a homeless thought, wandering forlorn among the empty eternities. He vanished, and left me appalled; for I knew, and realized, that all he had said was true." "What a sad perspective upon which to end one's otherwise rich life." 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. If you're looking for something like Adventures of Tom Sawyer or Adventures of Huckleberry Finn. By Audra Twain's book, written late in life, reveals his cynicism about society and humanity. No. 44 is also a mind-bender because some of the concepts it explores are very complex. It's rather different from his more famous works; if you're looking for something like Adventures of Tom Sawyer or Adventures of Huckleberry Finn, this book may not be for you. Although No. 44 does include some of Twain's trademark humor, it's also quite dark. I found myself feeling rather depressed at the end of this novel, but I did enjoy certain instances of Twain's wit--such as his comments about cats. Overall, No. 44 gives you an interesting glimpse into Twain's mind. Just remember that it's dark in there! 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Mark Twain at his best and that's better than almost anybody. By butchosbox Mark Twain at his best and that's better than almost anybody. I love his paragraph on the god myth at the end of the mysterious stranger which depicts the silliness of the creator story. His common sense and humour are outstanding in this story as it always is and it was a joy to read.

The Mysterious Stranger is an unfinished work and the last novel attempted by the American author Mark Twain. It was worked on periodically from roughly 1890 up until his death in 1910. The body of work is a serious social commentary by Twain addressing his ideas of the Moral Sense and the "damned human race"*****The other stories in this book are: "A Fable", "Hunting the Deceitful Turkey" and "The McWilliamses and the Burglar Alarm"

About the Author Mark Twain was born Samuel Langhorne Clemens in Florida, Missouri, in 1835, and died at Redding, Connecticut in 1910. In his person and in his pursuits he was a man of extraordinary contrasts. Although he left school at twelve when his father died, he was eventually awarded honorary degrees from Yale University, the University of Missouri, and Oxford University. His career encompassed such varied occupations as printer, Mississippi riverboat pilot, journalist, travel writer, and publisher. He made fortunes from his writing but toward the end of his life he had to resort to lecture tours to pay his debts. He was hot-tempered, profane, and sentimental and also pessimistic, cynical, and tortured by self-doubt. His nostalgia helped produce some of his best books. He lives in American letters as a great artist, the writer whom William Dean Howells called the Lincoln of our literature.