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The Painted Veil



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Synopsis

First published in 1925, The Painted Veil is an affirmation of the human capacity to grow, change, and forgive. Set in England and Hong Kong in the 1920s, it is the story of the beautiful but shallow young Kitty Fane. When her husband discovers her adulterous affair, he forces her to accompany him to a remote region of China ravaged by a cholera epidemic. Stripped of the British society of her youth and overwhelmed by the desolation around her, she is compelled by her awakening conscience to reassess her life. She takes up work with children at a convent, but when her husband dies, she is forced to return to England to her father, her one remaining relative, to raise her unborn child. Though too late for her marriage, she has learned humility, independence, and how to love. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

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Customer Reviews

1-What first? The movie or the film?: I watched the film first. I fell in love with it and I needed to know more from the characters, be closer to them so I went for the book. And, I think it was the best way. You'll find that the film isn't exactly the same to what you find in the book. This can be disappointing! So, go for the film first.2-Moving: Definitely the book is as moving as the film. The author is able to transmit every feeling, deeply.3-Short chapters: If you are the kind of person that sees any book like infinite, forever, never ending, well, in this book apart from the catching story you will see that every chapter is very short which is refreshing.4-Short sentences: The way it is narrated is very punctual, straight. The author describes everything very well and really knows how to touch every heart, but

he’s way isn’t the mellow, hand-by-hand one but short sentences one.5-Kitty: She’s fantastic in both: The book and film. Pay quite attention to her. She’s a real character.Recommendations1-Place: Definitely is a story you can read anywhere, including the beach. `Breeze and waves sound will make it even more romantic.2-Time: It won’t take you more than 4 days.3-Make it more real: While engaged to this story I recommend you to drink some Oolong tea, and to listen to some "Bamboo Flute" Chinese music. It’s very relaxing and makes you feel there in the story.4-Soundtrack: Additionally, it isn’t from book of course, however I do recommend you to check the OST from the film. It is very sad, but fantastic!

I decided to read this book because it sounded like an interesting self-discovery book. I can’t say that I was disappointed, but it wasn’t quite what I expected. I would label this book a classic, primarily because of its language and content. I actually found it was quite interesting although I’m not quite sure why.The story follows Kitty Fane. She is a young (mid-20s) woman living with her husband Walter in the English colony in Hong Kong, China in the 1920s. Kitty had only married her husband in order to be married before her younger sister, and there is no love in her heart for her husband. She has an affair that her husband found out about. He gave her two choices he divorces her (leaving her ruined socially) or she goes with him to a remote Chinese village to help fight a cholera epidemic. After fighting with her lover, she consents to go to the village.When she gets to the village, she is in a severe depression and the rest of the story is how she comes to view herself and those around her. There is the local English Customs official for the town that she finds herself in company with a lot, her husband Walter, and the local nuns that she spends the bulk of her time with and help to shape her ideas. The nuns in particular have a profound impact on her as she slowly changes her views of the world.I think this book was a wonderful cultural read. You learned quite a bit about the English in China in the early 1900s. There’s prejudice and racism. Kitty in particular is quite racist, but for the time the language and opinions wouldn’t have been at all unusual. The first third of the book is Kitty having and being caught about her affair. After that, you move into rural china where a lot of the interesting aspects of the book are. You learned about nuns and why they become missionaries and how they are happy in their work. They reference traveling by chair all the time. I was correct in what I thought that meant, but was still surprised by this mode of travel. It is carried by collies (indentured servants) from the front and back.Overall I thought it was an interesting read. I can’t say way in particular I thought it was good, but it was just the general impression of writing style, language, culture, and emotional growth. I can’t say Kitty grew by leaps and bounds, but she did grow some. I liked that the romance scenes happened ’off stage’ by being

alluded to and then a scene change. I enjoyed the language and writing style as well. The chapters are extremely short, some only a page or two long. It made it easy to stop as needed.I'd recommend this book to anyone who enjoys classical fiction. Also, anyone interested in early 1900s China or the English colonization of China in that time frame might enjoy this, as long as they keep in mind it is still fiction and the story focuses on the emotions and life of a young woman. I'm giving it three cheese slices only because I think this is a one and done read. I can't think that I'll go back and read it, but it was an enjoyable read the first time through.

ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“The Painted VeilÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• is the story of Kitty Fane, a beautiful, but thoughtless, shallow, and self-centered woman. The year is 1925. When her younger sister announces her own engagement to a prosperous Duke, Kitty ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“panicsÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• and accepts the proposal of the very quiet, very shy, Dr. Walter Fane, a bacteriologist living in China who falls madly in love with her. The couple has little in common. She does not love her husband, and barely knows him. While he is a man of great integrity, his passion for her is superficial. They are destined to make one another deeply unhappy. Yearning for romance, Kitty falls madly in love with Charles Townshend, a charming, married, government officer. When Walter learns of KittyÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s affair, he gives her an ultimatum. She can convince Charlie to divorce his wife or she can go with Walter into the middle of a cholera epidemic. She is stunned to find that Charlie isn't willing to sacrifice anything for her. In the middle of this epidemic, she is forced to accept her faults. Kitty starts to realize that Walter is a good man.Maugham is a first rate author. The book is beautifully writtenÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â •simple, yet elegant.

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