

SOMERSET MAUGHAM THE CIRCLE

SOMERSET MAUGHAM THE CIRCLE: AN IN-DEPTH EXPLORATION

SOMERSET MAUGHAM THE CIRCLE IS A CAPTIVATING PHRASE THAT RESONATES DEEPLY WITHIN THE REALMS OF LITERATURE AND STORYTELLING. IT REFERS TO THE INTERCONNECTED THEMES, CHARACTERS, AND PHILOSOPHICAL MUSINGS FOUND IN THE WORKS OF W. SOMERSET MAUGHAM, PARTICULARLY IN HIS EXPLORATION OF HUMAN NATURE, MORALITY, AND SOCIETAL NORMS. MAUGHAM, A PROLIFIC BRITISH PLAYWRIGHT, NOVELIST, AND SHORT STORY WRITER, IS RENOWNED FOR HIS KEEN INSIGHTS INTO HUMAN PSYCHOLOGY AND HIS ABILITY TO CRAFT STORIES THAT ARE BOTH TIMELESS AND UNIVERSALLY RELATABLE.

WHO WAS SOMERSET MAUGHAM?

EARLY LIFE AND BACKGROUND

WILLIAM SOMERSET MAUGHAM WAS BORN ON JANUARY 25, 1874, IN PARIS, FRANCE, TO BRITISH PARENTS. HIS EARLY LIFE WAS MARKED BY TRAGEDY; HIS MOTHER PASSED AWAY WHEN HE WAS JUST A YOUNG BOY, AND HE WAS SUBSEQUENTLY RAISED BY HIS AUNT IN ENGLAND. DESPITE THESE HARDSHIPS, MAUGHAM EXCELLED ACADEMICALLY AND EVENTUALLY ATTENDED HEIDELBERG UNIVERSITY IN GERMANY, WHERE HE CULTIVATED HIS LOVE FOR LITERATURE AND LANGUAGES.

LITERARY CAREER AND LEGACY

MAUGHAM'S LITERARY CAREER SPANNED OVER FIVE DECADES, DURING WHICH HE AUTHORED NUMEROUS NOVELS, SHORT STORIES, PLAYS, AND TRAVEL BOOKS. HIS WRITING IS CHARACTERIZED BY CLARITY, WIT, AND AN ACUTE UNDERSTANDING OF HUMAN NATURE. SOME OF HIS MOST FAMOUS WORKS INCLUDE *THE MOON AND SIXPENCE*, *OF HUMAN BONDAGE*, AND *THE RAZOR'S EDGE*.

HIS STORIES OFTEN EXPLORE THEMES OF MORALITY, PERSONAL FREEDOM, AND THE COMPLEXITIES OF HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS. MAUGHAM'S INFLUENCE EXTENDS BEYOND LITERATURE; HE WAS ALSO A SUCCESSFUL PLAYWRIGHT, WITH SEVERAL OF HIS PLAYS BEING ADAPTED INTO FILMS AND STAGE PRODUCTIONS.

THE CIRCLE IN SOMERSET MAUGHAM'S WORKS

UNDERSTANDING THE CONCEPT OF 'THE CIRCLE'

THE MOTIF OF THE CIRCLE APPEARS FREQUENTLY ACROSS MAUGHAM'S STORIES AND NOVELS. IT SYMBOLIZES VARIOUS CONCEPTS SUCH AS FATE, DESTINY, CYCLICAL NATURE OF LIFE, AND THE INTERCONNECTEDNESS OF HUMAN EXPERIENCES. THE CIRCLE OFTEN SERVES AS A METAPHOR FOR THE RECURRING PATTERNS IN LIFE AND THE MORAL DILEMMAS FACED BY HIS CHARACTERS.

THEMATIC SIGNIFICANCE OF THE CIRCLE

- **FATE AND DESTINY:** CHARACTERS FIND THEMSELVES TRAPPED IN CIRCUMSTANCES BEYOND THEIR CONTROL, ILLUSTRATING THE INESCAPABLE NATURE OF FATE.
- **MORALITY AND HUMAN NATURE:** THE CIRCLE REPRESENTS THE MORAL BOUNDARIES CHARACTERS NAVIGATE, OFTEN

QUESTIONING WHAT LIES WITHIN OR OUTSIDE THESE BOUNDARIES.

- **INTERCONNECTEDNESS:** RELATIONSHIPS AND SOCIETAL ROLES FORM A WEB AKIN TO A CIRCLE, EMPHASIZING HOW LIVES ARE INTERTWINED.
- **REPETITION AND CYCLES:** MANY STORIES DEPICT CHARACTERS RELIVING PAST MISTAKES OR CYCLES OF BEHAVIOR, HIGHLIGHTING THE REPETITIVE NATURE OF HUMAN LIFE.

NOTABLE WORKS FEATURING THE 'CIRCLE' MOTIF

1. THE CIRCLE (1921)

THE CIRCLE IS ONE OF MAUGHAM'S MOST DIRECT REFERENCES TO THE MOTIF. THIS NOVELLA EXPLORES THEMES OF SOCIETAL EXPECTATIONS, PERSONAL MORALITY, AND THE CONSTRAINTS PLACED ON WOMEN. SET IN A CONSERVATIVE ENGLISH SOCIETY, IT EXAMINES HOW CHARACTERS NAVIGATE THE MORAL 'CIRCLE' THEY INHABIT AND THEIR ATTEMPTS TO BREAK FREE FROM IT.

2. OF HUMAN BONDAGE

THIS SEMI-AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL NOVEL DELVES INTO THE PROTAGONIST PHILIP CAREY'S STRUGGLE WITH HIS DESIRES AND SOCIETAL CONSTRAINTS. THE NARRATIVE DEMONSTRATES THE CYCLICAL NATURE OF HUMAN LONGING AND DISAPPOINTMENT, ECHOING THE IDEA OF THE CIRCLE AS AN INESCAPABLE PATTERN OF LIFE.

3. THE MOON AND SIXPENCE

WHILE NOT EXPLICITLY ABOUT THE CIRCLE, THIS NOVEL EXPLORES THE PURSUIT OF ARTISTIC PASSION AND THE SACRIFICES IT ENTAILS. THE CHARACTERS' JOURNEYS ARE OFTEN CYCLICAL, REFLECTING INTERNAL STRUGGLES AND MORAL DILEMMAS THAT SEEM TO REPEAT ACROSS GENERATIONS.

THE PHILOSOPHICAL UNDERPINNINGS OF THE CIRCLE

EXISTENTIAL PERSPECTIVES

MAUGHAM'S DEPICTION OF THE CIRCLE OFTEN ALIGNS WITH EXISTENTIAL THEMES—HIGHLIGHTING THE INDIVIDUAL'S QUEST FOR MEANING WITHIN PREDETERMINED BOUNDARIES. HIS CHARACTERS GRAPPLE WITH THEIR CHOICES, UNDERSTANDING THAT THEY ARE PART OF A LARGER, OFTEN CYCLICAL PATTERN OF HUMAN EXISTENCE.

MORALITY AND SOCIAL NORMS

THE CIRCLE ALSO SYMBOLIZES SOCIETAL NORMS AND MORAL BOUNDARIES. CHARACTERS FREQUENTLY FACE DILEMMAS THAT CHALLENGE THEIR SENSE OF RIGHT AND WRONG, WITHIN THE CONFINES OF THE SOCIETAL 'CIRCLE' THEY INHABIT. BREAKING FREE FROM THESE NORMS OFTEN RESULTS IN CONFLICT OR TRAGEDY, EMPHASIZING THE POWER OF SOCIETAL EXPECTATIONS.

THE INFLUENCE OF SOMERSET MAUGHAM'S 'THE CIRCLE' ON LITERATURE

IMPACT ON MODERN WRITERS

MAUGHAM'S EXPLORATION OF CYCLICAL THEMES AND MORAL AMBIGUITY HAS INFLUENCED NUMEROUS WRITERS AND STORYTELLERS. HIS ABILITY TO DEPICT COMPLEX CHARACTERS CAUGHT IN MORAL OR SOCIETAL CIRCLES PAVED THE WAY FOR MODERN PSYCHOLOGICAL FICTION.

LEGACY AND CULTURAL RELEVANCE

THE MOTIFS OF THE CIRCLE CONTINUE TO RESONATE IN CONTEMPORARY LITERATURE AND MEDIA, SYMBOLIZING THE RECURRING PATTERNS IN HUMAN LIFE AND SOCIETY. MAUGHAM'S INSIGHTS REMAIN RELEVANT, ENCOURAGING READERS TO REFLECT ON THEIR OWN CYCLES AND SOCIETAL ROLES.

CONCLUSION: THE ENDURING SIGNIFICANCE OF SOMERSET MAUGHAM'S 'THE CIRCLE'

IN SUM, **SOMERSET MAUGHAM 'THE CIRCLE'** ENCAPSULATES A PROFOUND LITERARY MOTIF THAT EXPLORES THE CYCLICAL NATURE OF HUMAN EXISTENCE, MORALITY, AND SOCIETAL CONSTRAINTS. THROUGH HIS STORIES, MAUGHAM MASTERFULLY ILLUSTRATES HOW INDIVIDUALS ARE OFTEN CAUGHT IN REPEATING PATTERNS, CHALLENGED BY MORAL DILEMMAS, AND ULTIMATELY SEEKING MEANING WITHIN THE CONFINES OF THEIR SOCIETAL 'CIRCLES.' HIS WORKS CONTINUE TO INSPIRE READERS AND WRITERS ALIKE, EMPHASIZING THE TIMELESSNESS OF THESE THEMES.

WHETHER EXAMINING THE CONSTRAINTS PLACED UPON WOMEN IN EARLY 20TH-CENTURY SOCIETY OR DELVING INTO THE UNIVERSAL STRUGGLES OF HUMAN DESIRE AND MORALITY, SOMERSET MAUGHAM'S USE OF THE CIRCLE REMAINS A POWERFUL NARRATIVE DEVICE. IT INVITES US TO REFLECT ON THE RECURRING PATTERNS IN OUR OWN LIVES AND THE SOCIETAL CIRCLES THAT SHAPE OUR DESTINIES.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT IS THE MAIN THEME OF SOMERSET MAUGHAM'S 'THE CIRCLE'?

THE MAIN THEME OF 'THE CIRCLE' IS THE EXPLORATION OF SOCIAL CLASS, MORALITY, AND THE CONSTRAINTS OF SOCIETAL EXPECTATIONS DURING THE EARLY 20TH CENTURY.

WHO ARE THE CENTRAL CHARACTERS IN SOMERSET MAUGHAM'S 'THE CIRCLE'?

THE STORY PRIMARILY REVOLVES AROUND THE CHARACTER OF SIR HENRY, HIS WIFE LADY CATHERINE, AND THEIR SOCIAL CIRCLE, HIGHLIGHTING THEIR INTERACTIONS AND MORAL DILEMMAS.

HOW DOES SOMERSET MAUGHAM PORTRAY SOCIETAL HYPOCRISY IN 'THE CIRCLE'?

MAUGHAM DEPICTS SOCIETAL HYPOCRISY THROUGH CHARACTERS WHO OUTWARDLY CONFORM TO SOCIAL NORMS BUT SECRETLY ENGAGE IN BEHAVIORS THAT CONTRADICT THOSE MORALS, REVEALING THE DOUBLE STANDARDS OF THE TIME.

WHAT IS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE TITLE 'THE CIRCLE' IN MAUGHAM'S STORY?

THE TITLE 'THE CIRCLE' SYMBOLIZES THE SOCIAL CLASS BOUNDARIES AND THE CLOSED, OFTEN HYPOCRITICAL, SOCIAL WORLD THAT THE CHARACTERS NAVIGATE AND ARE CONFINED WITHIN.

How does Somerset Maugham explore morality in 'The Circle'?

MAUGHAM EXAMINES MORALITY THROUGH THE CHARACTERS' INTERNAL CONFLICTS AND THEIR ACTIONS, OFTEN HIGHLIGHTING THE CONTRAST BETWEEN PUBLIC VIRTUE AND PRIVATE VICE.

Is 'The Circle' based on real events or purely fictional?

WHILE 'THE CIRCLE' IS A WORK OF FICTION, IT REFLECTS SOCIETAL ATTITUDES AND ISSUES PREVALENT DURING MAUGHAM'S TIME, MAKING IT A COMMENTARY ON THE SOCIAL DYNAMICS OF THAT ERA.

What literary techniques does Somerset Maugham use in 'The Circle'?

MAUGHAM EMPLOYS IRONY, DETAILED CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT, AND SOCIAL CRITIQUE TO CONVEY THE STORY'S THEMES AND ENGAGE THE READER.

Why is 'The Circle' considered a significant work in Somerset Maugham's literary career?

'THE CIRCLE' IS REGARDED AS A POIGNANT EXPLORATION OF SOCIETAL NORMS AND HUMAN NATURE, SHOWCASING MAUGHAM'S SKILL IN DEPICTING COMPLEX CHARACTERS AND MORAL AMBIGUITIES, SOLIDIFYING ITS PLACE AS AN IMPORTANT WORK IN HIS OEUVRE.

Additional Resources

SOMERSET MAUGHAM: THE CIRCLE – AN IN-DEPTH LITERARY EXPLORATION

INTRODUCTION

IN THE PANTHEON OF 20TH-CENTURY LITERATURE, SOMERSET MAUGHAM STANDS OUT AS A MASTER STORYTELLER WHOSE WORKS CONTINUE TO CAPTIVATE READERS AND CRITICS ALIKE. AMONG HIS DIVERSE OEUVRE, THE CIRCLE (ALSO KNOWN AS THE RAZOR'S EDGE IN SOME EDITIONS) EXEMPLIFIES MAUGHAM'S KEEN INSIGHT INTO THE HUMAN CONDITION, MORAL AMBIGUITY, AND THE SEARCH FOR MEANING. THIS ARTICLE OFFERS AN IN-DEPTH EXAMINATION OF THE CIRCLE, ANALYZING ITS THEMES, CHARACTERS, NARRATIVE STRUCTURE, AND ITS SIGNIFICANCE WITHIN MAUGHAM'S LITERARY LEGACY. WHETHER YOU'RE A LONG-TIME ADMIRER OR A NEWCOMER SEEKING TO UNDERSTAND THIS COMPELLING WORK, THIS REVIEW AIMS TO PROVIDE A COMPREHENSIVE AND EXPERT PERSPECTIVE ON SOMERSET MAUGHAM'S THE CIRCLE.

BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

SOMERSET MAUGHAM: A BRIEF OVERVIEW

SOMERSET MAUGHAM (1874–1965) WAS A PROLIFIC BRITISH NOVELIST, PLAYWRIGHT, AND SHORT STORY WRITER. HIS WORKS ARE RENOWNED FOR THEIR CLEAR STYLE, PSYCHOLOGICAL DEPTH, AND KEEN OBSERVATIONS OF HUMAN NATURE. MAUGHAM'S WRITING OFTEN EXPLORES THEMES OF MORALITY, SOCIETAL NORMS, AND THE INDIVIDUAL'S QUEST FOR AUTHENTICITY. HIS REPUTATION WAS SOLIDIFIED THROUGH BESTSELLERS LIKE OF HUMAN BONDAGE, THE MOON AND SIXPENCE, AND THE RAZOR'S EDGE.

THE GENESIS OF THE CIRCLE

THE CIRCLE WAS WRITTEN DURING A PERIOD WHEN MAUGHAM WAS INTENSELY INTERESTED IN SPIRITUALISM, EASTERN PHILOSOPHIES, AND THE PURSUIT OF SPIRITUAL ENLIGHTENMENT. PUBLISHED IN 1945, THE NOVEL REFLECTS THE POST-WORLD WAR II ZEITGEIST—AN ERA MARKED BY DISILLUSIONMENT, A SEARCH FOR SPIRITUAL TRUTH, AND A REEVALUATION OF MATERIAL VALUES. MAUGHAM'S OWN EXPERIENCES TRAVELING IN ASIA AND HIS FASCINATION WITH DIFFERENT CULTURAL AND SPIRITUAL

TRADITIONS HEAVILY INFLUENCED THE NOVEL'S THEMES.

OVERVIEW OF THE CIRCLE

PLOT SUMMARY

THE CIRCLE NARRATES THE INTERTWINED LIVES OF SEVERAL CHARACTERS FROM DIFFERENT BACKGROUNDS, BOUND TOGETHER BY THEMES OF MORALITY, FATE, AND THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS. THE STORY UNFOLDS OVER A DECADE, CENTERING ON THE SPIRITUAL AWAKENING OF ONE PROTAGONIST, LARRY DARRELL, WHOSE QUEST FOR MEANING LEADS HIM AWAY FROM CONVENTIONAL SOCIETY.

THE NARRATIVE EXPLORES LARRY'S INITIAL DISILLUSIONMENT WITH MATERIAL SUCCESS, HIS JOURNEY TO INDIA AND THE FAR EAST, AND HIS EVENTUAL RETURN TO ENGLAND. ALONGSIDE LARRY, WE ENCOUNTER CHARACTERS SUCH AS:

- SOPHIE MACDONALD: A YOUNG WOMAN FROM A MODEST BACKGROUND WHOSE LIFE BECOMES ENTANGLED WITH LARRY'S, ULTIMATELY LEADING TO TRAGEDY.
- GRAY MORGAN: A WEALTHY AMERICAN BUSINESSMAN WHO SEEKS SPIRITUAL FULFILLMENT THROUGH MATERIAL PURSUITS.
- MAUGHAM HIMSELF (OR A CHARACTER REPRESENTING HIS PERSPECTIVE): SERVING AS A NARRATOR AND MORAL COMMENTATOR.

THE NOVEL CULMINATES IN A MEDITATION ON THE NATURE OF HAPPINESS, THE INFLUENCE OF CHANCE, AND THE ELUSIVE PURSUIT OF SPIRITUAL PEACE.

NARRATIVE STYLE AND STRUCTURE

MAUGHAM EMPLOYS A THIRD-PERSON OMNISCIENT NARRATION, ALLOWING INSIGHT INTO EACH CHARACTER'S INTERNAL STRUGGLES AND MOTIVATIONS. THE STRUCTURE IS NON-LINEAR, WITH FLASHBACKS AND SHIFTING PERSPECTIVES THAT DEEPEN THE READER'S UNDERSTANDING OF THE CHARACTERS' JOURNEYS. THIS LAYERED STORYTELLING TECHNIQUE ENHANCES THE NOVEL'S EXPLORATION OF MORAL AMBIGUITY AND THE COMPLEXITY OF HUMAN CHOICES.

THEMATIC ANALYSIS

THE SEARCH FOR MEANING

AT ITS CORE, THE CIRCLE DELVES INTO THE UNIVERSAL HUMAN QUEST FOR PURPOSE BEYOND MATERIAL WEALTH AND SUPERFICIAL SUCCESS. LARRY DARRELL EPITOMIZES THIS QUEST, REJECTING SOCIETAL EXPECTATIONS IN FAVOR OF SPIRITUAL ENLIGHTENMENT. HIS JOURNEY REFLECTS MAUGHAM'S CRITIQUE OF MATERIALISM AND HIS INTEREST IN EASTERN PHILOSOPHIES, SUCH AS BUDDHISM AND HINDUISM, WHICH ADVOCATE INNER PEACE AND DETACHMENT.

MORALITY AND MORAL RELATIVITY

MAUGHAM CHALLENGES TRADITIONAL NOTIONS OF MORALITY THROUGH HIS CHARACTERS' CONFLICTING CHOICES. FOR INSTANCE:

- LARRY'S REJECTION OF CONVENTIONAL SUCCESS RAISES QUESTIONS ABOUT SOCIETAL VALUES.
- SOPHIE'S TRAGIC DOWNFALL ILLUSTRATES HOW MORAL COMPROMISES CAN LEAD TO DESPAIR.
- GRAY MORGAN'S PURSUIT OF WEALTH AT THE EXPENSE OF SPIRITUAL WELL-BEING HIGHLIGHTS THE HOLLOWNESS OF MATERIAL PURSUITS.

THE NOVEL THUS EXPLORES WHETHER MORALITY IS ABSOLUTE OR CONTEXT-DEPENDENT, PROMPTING READERS TO CONSIDER THE GRAY AREAS OF ETHICAL DECISION-MAKING.

FATE, CHANCE, AND FREE WILL

THROUGHOUT THE CIRCLE, MAUGHAM EMPHASIZES THE ROLE OF CHANCE IN SHAPING LIVES. CHARACTERS' DESTINIES SEEM DICTATED BY FORTUITOUS EVENTS—BE IT LOVE, WAR, OR SPIRITUAL AWAKENING. THE NOVEL SUGGESTS THAT WHILE INDIVIDUALS HAVE AGENCY, EXTERNAL FORCES OFTEN INFLUENCE OUTCOMES BEYOND THEIR CONTROL, ADDING A LAYER OF

EXISTENTIAL COMPLEXITY.

EAST MEETS WEST

A RECURRING MOTIF IS THE CONTRAST BETWEEN WESTERN MATERIALISM AND EASTERN SPIRITUALISM. MAUGHAM PRESENTS THE EAST AS A SANCTUARY FOR THOSE SEEKING AUTHENTIC MEANING, CONTRASTING IT WITH THE WEST'S OBSESSION WITH SUCCESS AND POSSESSIONS. THIS DICHOTOMY RAISES QUESTIONS ABOUT CULTURAL SUPERIORITY AND THE UNIVERSALITY OF SPIRITUAL TRUTHS.

CHARACTER ANALYSIS

LARRY DARRELL

THE PROTAGONIST'S JOURNEY: LARRY EMBODIES THE IDEALISTIC SEEKER. HIS INITIAL DISILLUSIONMENT WITH SUPERFICIALITY PROPELS HIM TOWARD A SPIRITUAL QUEST, LEADING HIM TO INDIA AND THE FAR EAST. HIS CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT ILLUSTRATES THE TENSION BETWEEN WORLDLY DETACHMENT AND EMOTIONAL ENGAGEMENT.

KEY TRAITS:

- IDEALISTIC AND PRINCIPLED
- SPIRITUALLY CURIOUS AND OPEN-MINDED
- OFTEN ALOOF FROM MATERIAL PURSUITS

SIGNIFICANCE: LARRY'S CHARACTER CHALLENGES READERS TO CONSIDER WHAT CONSTITUTES TRUE HAPPINESS AND FULFILLMENT.

SOPHIE MACDONALD

THE TRAGIC FIGURE: SOPHIE'S LIFE TRAJECTORY UNDERSCORES THE DESTRUCTIVE POTENTIAL OF MORAL COMPROMISE AND UNFULFILLED LONGING. HER PASSIONATE NATURE AND VULNERABILITY MAKE HER A COMPLEX, SYMPATHETIC CHARACTER.

KEY TRAITS:

- IMPULSIVE AND EMOTIONAL
- LOVING AND LONGING FOR STABILITY
- TRAGICALLY NAIVE ABOUT HER OWN DESIRES

SIGNIFICANCE: SOPHIE'S DOWNFALL SERVES AS A CAUTIONARY TALE ABOUT THE COSTS OF MORAL ABDICATION AND THE IMPORTANCE OF SELF-AWARENESS.

GRAY MORGAN

THE MATERIALIST: GRAY REPRESENTS THE WESTERN CAPITALIST MINDSET. HIS PURSUIT OF WEALTH AND STATUS CONTRASTS SHARPLY WITH LARRY'S SPIRITUAL PURSUITS.

KEY TRAITS:

- AMBITIOUS AND PRAGMATIC
- MATERIALISTIC AND STATUS-DRIVEN
- ULTIMATELY DISILLUSIONED

SIGNIFICANCE: MORGAN'S CHARACTER QUESTIONS WHETHER MATERIAL SUCCESS CAN TRULY SATISFY THE HUMAN SOUL.

LITERARY SIGNIFICANCE AND CRITICAL RECEPTION

INNOVATIONS IN STYLE AND THEME

MAUGHAM'S *THE CIRCLE* IS NOTABLE FOR ITS NUANCED CHARACTERIZATIONS AND PHILOSOPHICAL DEPTH. HIS BLENDING OF NARRATIVE TECHNIQUES—SUCH AS SHIFTING VIEWPOINTS AND REFLECTIVE NARRATION—ALLOWS FOR A MULTI-FACETED

EXPLORATION OF MORALITY AND SPIRITUALITY.

CRITICAL PERSPECTIVES

INITIALLY, CRITICS PRAISED *THE CIRCLE* FOR ITS INSIGHTFUL PORTRAYAL OF HUMAN DILEMMAS AND ITS LITERARY CRAFTSMANSHIP. SOME, HOWEVER, FOUND THE NOVEL'S SPIRITUAL THEMES OVERLY DIDACTIC OR IDEALIZED. OVER TIME, IT HAS BEEN RECOGNIZED AS A SIGNIFICANT WORK THAT BRIDGES WESTERN LITERARY TRADITIONS WITH EASTERN PHILOSOPHICAL IDEAS.

INFLUENCE ON LITERATURE AND CULTURE

THE CIRCLE INFLUENCED SUBSEQUENT WRITERS INTERESTED IN SPIRITUAL THEMES, INCLUDING THOSE IN THE BEAT GENERATION AND MODERN SPIRITUAL MOVEMENTS. ITS EXPLORATION OF THE SEARCH FOR AUTHENTICITY CONTINUES TO RESONATE IN CONTEMPORARY LITERATURE.

ADAPTATIONS AND CULTURAL IMPACT

WHILE *THE CIRCLE* ITSELF HAS NOT BEEN WIDELY ADAPTED INTO FILMS OR THEATER, ITS THEMES APPEAR IN NUMEROUS CINEMATIC AND LITERARY WORKS CONCERNING SPIRITUAL JOURNEYS AND MORAL DILEMMAS. SOMERSET MAUGHAM'S REPUTATION AS A STORYTELLER WHO EXPLORES THE DEPTHS OF HUMAN NATURE ENSURES THAT *THE CIRCLE* REMAINS A RELEVANT AND THOUGHT-PROVOKING READ.

CONCLUSION

SOMERSET MAUGHAM'S *THE CIRCLE* STANDS AS A PROFOUND MEDITATION ON THE COMPLEXITIES OF HUMAN MORALITY, THE QUEST FOR SPIRITUAL MEANING, AND THE INFLUENCE OF CHANCE AND CULTURAL CONTRAST. WITH ITS RICHLY DEVELOPED CHARACTERS AND PHILOSOPHICAL DEPTH, THE NOVEL INVITES READERS TO REFLECT ON THEIR OWN PURSUITS OF HAPPINESS AND AUTHENTICITY. AS AN EXPERT-REVIEWED WORK, *THE CIRCLE* EXEMPLIFIES MAUGHAM'S MASTERY OF NUANCED STORYTELLING AND REMAINS A VITAL PIECE WITHIN THE CANON OF 20TH-CENTURY LITERATURE. WHETHER APPROACHED AS AN EXPLORATION OF SPIRITUAL PHILOSOPHY OR A COMPELLING HUMAN DRAMA, *THE CIRCLE* ENDURES AS A TESTAMENT TO MAUGHAM'S ENDURING LITERARY LEGACY.

[Somerset Maugham The Circle](#)

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somerset maugham the circle: *Plays by W. Somerset Maugham* William Somerset Maugham, 1931

somerset maugham the circle: New York Magazine , 1989-12-04 New York magazine was born in 1968 after a run as an insert of the New York Herald Tribune and quickly made a place for itself as the trusted resource for readers across the country. With award-winning writing and photography covering everything from politics and food to theater and fashion, the magazine's consistent mission has been to reflect back to its audience the energy and excitement of the city itself, while celebrating New York as both a place and an idea.

somerset maugham the circle: Within the Circle Angelyn Mitchell, 1994 Within the Circle is the first anthology to present the entire spectrum of twentieth-century African American literary and cultural criticism. It begins with the Harlem Renaissance, continues through civil rights, the Black Arts Movement, and on into contemporary debates of poststructuralist and black feminist theory. Drawing on a quote from Frederick Douglass for the title of this book, Angelyn Mitchell explains in her introduction the importance for those within the circle of African American literature to examine their own works and to engage this critical canon. The essays in this collection--many of which are not widely available today--either initiated or gave critical definition to specific periods or movements of African American literature. They address issues such as integration, separatism, political action, black nationalism, Afrocentricity, black feminism, as well as the role of art, the artist, the critic, and the audience. With selections from Langston Hughes, Sterling Brown, W. E. B. DuBois, Zora Neale Hurston, Richard Wright, James Baldwin, Toni Morrison, Barbara Smith, Alice Walker, Henry Louis Gates, Jr., and many others, this definitive collection provides a dynamic model of the cultural, ideological, historical, and aesthetic considerations in African American literature and literary criticism. A major contribution to the study of African American literature, this volume will serve as a foundation for future work by students and scholars. Its importance will be recognized by all those interested in modern literary theory as well as general readers concerned with the African American experience. Selections by (partial list): Houston A. Baker, Jr., James Baldwin, Sterling Brown, Barbara Christian, W. E. B. DuBois, Ralph Ellison, LeRoi Jones, Sarah Webster Fabio, Henry Louis Gates, Jr., W. Lawrence Hogue, Langston Hughes, Zora Neale Hurston, Alain Locke, Deborah E. McDowell, Toni Morrison, J. Saunders Redding, George Schuyler, Barbara Smith, Valerie Smith, Hortense J. Spillers, Robert B. Stepto, Alice Walker, Margaret Walker, Mary Helen Washington, Richard Wright

somerset maugham the circle: Three Comedies of W. Somerset Maugham William Somerset Maugham, 1969

somerset maugham the circle: The Vicious Circle Margaret Case Harriman, 2018-09-03 In June 1919, the Algonquin Hotel became the site of the daily meetings of the Algonquin Round Table, a group of journalists, authors, publicists and actors who gathered to exchange bon mots over lunch in the main dining room. The group met almost daily for the better part of ten years. Some of the core members of the "Vicious Circle" included Franklin P. Adams, Robert Benchley, Heywood Broun, Marc Connelly, Jane Grant, Ruth Hale, George S. Kaufman, Harpo Marx, Neysa McMein, Dorothy Parker, Harold Ross, Robert E. Sherwood and Alexander Woollcott. George S. Kaufman, Heywood Broun, and Edna Ferber, who influenced writers like F. Scott Fitzgerald and Ernest Hemingway, were also a part of the August assembly, and as founders of The New Yorker magazine, all hotel guests receive free copies to this day. Frank Case, owner of the Algonquin Hotel from 1907 until his death in 1946, ensured a daily luncheon for the talented group of young writers by treating them to free celery and popovers, and they were provided with their own table and waiter. All members were affiliated with the Algonquin Round Table, although they referred to themselves as the Vicious Circle. In this memoir, first published in 1951, Frank Case's daughter Margaret Case Harriman recounts the diverting history of what was an innocent lunch group at her father's hotel and illustrates how it grew to become an important factor in literature, the theatre, and American wit and humor... "A lively, chatty, entertaining work, touched with nostalgia."—Chicago Sunday Tribune "Mrs. Harriman brings vividly to mind and to memory some of the most vivid people who ever sat around a table...She writes with enthusiasm and charm."—New York Herald Tribune Book Review "Phenomenal...Congrats, as Connolly says, from the Bunch."—Franklin P. Adams "A lovingly observed and brilliantly written chronicle of an era that didn't know it was one."—Deems Taylo

somerset maugham the circle: The Sewing Circle Axel Madsen, 2015-03-17 Greta Garbo, Marlene Dietrich, and Barbara Stanwyck—to name a few—maintained their images as glamorous big-screen sex symbols complete with dashing escorts, handsome husbands, and scores of male admirers, thanks to studio publicity departments. But off the set, all three box office divas were involved in "lavender" marriages (marriages of convenience, often to gay men) or remained stoically single. They, and several other Hollywood starlets of the era, were members of a discreet women's "club" called the Sewing Circle, Hollywood's underground lesbian society. Madsen takes a candid look at the very complicated dual lives these great stars led and the impact their preference for same-sex relationships had on their movie careers.

somerset maugham the circle: The Circle by W. Somerset Maugham , 1948

somerset maugham the circle: Melville and His Circle William B. Dillingham, 2008-09-01 Herman Melville is a towering figure in American literature--arguably the country's greatest nineteenth-century writer. Revising a number of entrenched misunderstandings about Melville in his later years, this is a remarkable and unprecedented account of the aged author giving himself over to a life of the mind. Focusing exclusively on a period usually associated with the waning of Melville's literary powers, William B. Dillingham shows that he was actually concentrating and intensifying his thoughts on art and creativity to a greater degree than ever before. Biographers have written little about Melville's deceptively quiet years after the publication of the long poem *Clarel* in 1876 and before his death in 1891. It was a time when he saw few friends or acquaintances, answered most of his letters as briefly as possible, and declined most social invitations. But for Melville, as for Emily Dickinson, such outward appearances belied an intense, engaged inner life. If for no other reason, Dillingham reminds us, this period merits more discerning attention because it was then that Melville produced *Billy Budd* as well as an impressive number of new and revised poems--while working full-time as a customs inspector for more than half of those years. What sustained Melville during that final period of ill health and near-poverty, says Dillingham, was his circle, not of close friends but of works by a number of writers that he read with appreciative, yet discriminating, affinity, including Matthew Arnold, James Thomson, Arthur Schopenhauer, and Honore de Balzac. Dillingham relates these readings to Melville's own poetry

and prose and to a rich variety of largely underappreciated topics relevant to Melville's later life, from Buddhism, the School of Pessimism, and New York intellectual life to Melville's job at the ever-corrupt customs house, his fear of disgrace and increased self-absorption, and his engagement with both the picturesque and the metaphorical power of roses in art and literature. This portrait of the great writer's final years is at once a biography, an intellectual history, and a discerning reading of his mature work. By showing that Melville's isolation was a conscious intellectual decision rather than a psychological quirk, *Melville and His Circle* reveals much that is new and challenging about Melville himself and about our notions of age and the persistence of imagination and creativity.

somerset maugham the circle: *Both Sides of the Circle* Christmas Humphreys, 2015-03-24
First published in 1978, Christmas Humphreys' autobiography presents the fascinating history of a life rich and varied in both private and in public. Spanning seven decades it touches on many events of historical interest in which he was personally involved. Among them the abdication of Edward VIII, the Japanese War Trials and his time with the Dalai Lama after his flight from Tibet. The author gives a graphic portrait of life behind the Bar and on the Bench - of what it is like to prosecute and to defend, and of the immense difficulties which face a judge when passing sentence. Here too are recollections of many famous cases of the twentieth century, and of the many murder trials in which he appeared as prosecuting counsel or judge. Of equal interest is his fifty years' of work in the field of English Buddhism. In 1924 he and his wife founded the Buddhist Society, which would become hugely influential in the spread of Buddhism throughout the West. *Both Sides of the Circle* is rich in humour and humanity. There is the joyful account of the author's Edwardian Boyhood followed by the tragedy of his brother's death in World War 1, which lead to the awakening of his interest in Buddhism and Theosophy. He speaks freely of his encounters with the Dalai Lama, with D.T. Suzuki, with Jung and with the Royal families of Thailand, Sikkim and Nepal, as well as his travels throughout the Europe and in the Orient. *Both sides of the Circle* is more than autobiography - it is also a spiritual odyssey whose reissue will be of great interest to those who've enjoyed Christmas Humphreys' other work and wish to know more about his brilliant career. It will also be very welcome to those wanted to learn about Buddhism in general, and the origins of English Buddhism in particular.

somerset maugham the circle: *The Circle* William Somerset Maugham, 1925

somerset maugham the circle: *Circle The World* Emerson Dean Brooking, Ph.D., 2015-11-11
The inquisitive author and his wife share many encounters with people and customs in myriad cultures during their year's journey circling the world.

somerset maugham the circle: *The Yellow Circle* Charles Edmonds Walk, 1909

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