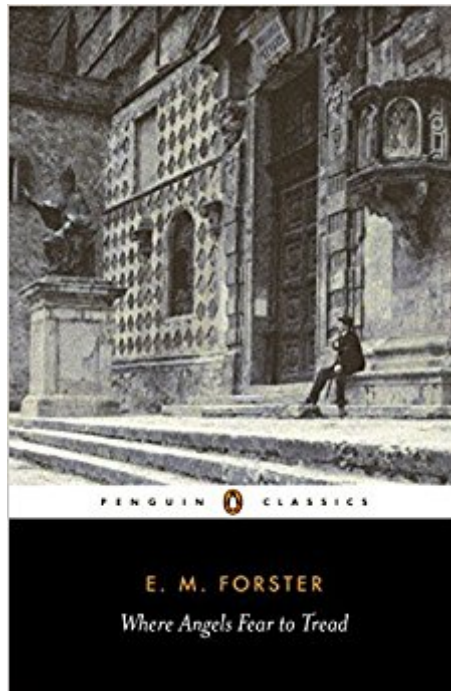




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Where Angels Fear To Tread (Penguin Classics)



Synopsis

A wonderful story of questioning, disillusionment, and conversion, *Where Angels Fear to Tread* tells the story of a prim English family's encounter with the foreign land of Italy. When attractive, impulsive English widow Lilia marries Gino, a dashing and highly unsuitable Italian twelve years her junior, her snobbish former in-laws make no attempts to hide their disapproval. But their expedition to face the uncouth foreigner takes an unexpected turn when they return to Italy under tragic circumstances intending to rescue Lilia and Gino's baby. 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.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

6 1-hour cassettes --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Forster's acclaimed first novel displays his finely honed talent for using the tragi-comic incident to comment on human existence. Focusing on a family of London suburbanites, the respectable, pompous and appearance-obsessed Herritons, *Where Angels Fear To Tread* is a comedy of manners that utilizes the elements of farce to demonstrate how a comic clash of cultural sensibilities

can quickly turn to tragedy. This is Forster's first novel and is a precursor to his later masterpieces, *A Passage to India* and *A Room with a View*. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

In E. M. Forster's first novel, an effete English family and their acquaintances encounter an authentic and vital society in the hills of Italy. Vacuous Lilia visits Monteriano in Tuscany and impulsively marries. She realizes her mistake too late to save herself but her English in-laws attempt to rescue the issue of her marriage. Upon arriving in Monteriano, they find that their wealth and education count for less than they thought. Rigid Harriett breaks herself against the local culture and provokes a tragedy, but the more sensitive members of the rescue party, Philip and Miss Abbott, profit in ways that they did not expect. Forster uses a quiet, simple style that lets the reader be moved by his rather sudden plot revelations. While this is a short novel, Forster finds room for a sincere appreciation of the charms of fictional Monteriano and some gentle humor. I imagine that this very approachable novel would appeal to many different types of readers.

I wasn't quite certain what to expect I dove into my first experience with Forster. I've heard opinions on him ranging from "brilliant" to "depressing tripe." I'm not willing to go quite so far as "brilliant," but it's much closer to that mark than the latter. All right, yes, it *is* depressing in many respects. But the subtlety, the irony, the characterizations, and the downright humor is a delight. I look forward to the rest of his books.

What I remembered from this novel was the opera scene (still glorious) and the tragic climax (still brutal so that I slowed down coming up to it in hopes of preventing its appearance). What I forgot was how witty it was, how warm, how accomplished for such an early novel in a writer's career. In short, it was actually better than I remembered, a rare accomplishment for an author I love so much. Not as magnificent as Proust nor as fine a writer as James, but equally as wise as both and much more welcoming than either.

I liked this book. I read it for my IB English class and enjoyed deciphering the hidden messages within it. It's a very dry read at some parts but overall it is very well written. I'd recommend this book to anyone.

I read this because Opera San Jose (California) has commissioned an opera, to appear next spring

(2015) based on this book. So I wanted background to appreciate the opera. It is the kind of good news-bad news book that could make a very good opera.

I did not like it at all. There was not enough character development for me to get to know the protagonists and either like them or not. I could not find the point of this story. This seems to me to be an episode without a beginning or an end.

I am reading it on my winter break next week! I already decided I love it from seeing the opera in San Jose last week!

Not enjoyable reading

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