

The Affairs of Flavie, Gabriel Chevallier, Kessinger Publishing, 2010, 1162785438, 9781162785431, . Kessinger Publishing is the place to find hundreds of thousands of rare and hard-to-find books with something of interest for everyone!.

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Robotics and Autonomous Systems, Volumes 45-47, , 2003, Technology & Engineering, ...

Three romantic novels of Cornwall Rebecca, Frenchman's creek, and Jamaica Inn, Daphne Du Maurier (Dame), 1961, Fiction, 704 pages.

Clochemerle-Babylon, Gabriel Chevallier, 1955, Fiction, 304 pages.

The King's English Adventures of an Independent Bookseller, Betsy Burton, Aug 9, 2006, Biography & Autobiography, 302 pages. 312.

The Euffe inheritance, Gabriel Chevallier, 1948, Fiction, 340 pages.

The Water of the Wondrous Isles, William Morris, Jan 1, 2004, Fiction, 332 pages. William Morris, the nineteenth century artist, sculptor, musician, master of all trades and jack of none, is at his brilliant best in this tale of shining waters and shrouded ....

Pigeon pie, Nancy Mitford, 1959, , 185 pages. .

The Faroese Saga freely translated with maps and genealogical tables by G. V. C. Young and Cynthia R. Clewer, George Vaughan Chichester Young, Cynthia R. Clewer, 1973, Literary Collections, 60 pages.

States of desire travels in gay America, Edmund White, 1980, Social Science, 336 pages. .

The Plague , Albert Camus, 1948, Fiction, 308 pages. A novel with the dreaded plagues as the powerful force affecting people..

Saturnin , ZdenĐ"â€⁰k Jirotka, May 1, 2006, , 263 pages. Zdenek Jirotka's famous humorous novel was first published in 1942 and since then, there have been more than 15 Czech editions. Over sixty years later, English-speaking readers ....

Blessing , , , , . .

The City of Saints Among the Mormons and Across the Rocky Mountains to California, Sir Richard Francis Burton, Sir, Sep 1, 2003, 512 pages. Sir Richard Francis Burton, born in 1821, was perhaps the most colorful British explorer of the 19th century. A tall man, with broad shoulders, a large head, and a drooping ....

Clochemerle by Gabriel Chevallier was such a delightful book, that I thought I would choose another of his books to read this week. This one was called The Affairs of Flavie, and it was also published as one of the 30 Penguins with the unsuccessful full colour covers. It is a very perplexing book; having read it, I'm left asking many questions, and the top of the list is why would Penguin publish it. That would be followed by why the author chose this title. Why name the book after an obscure character who disappears by the middle of the book, and whose story is never developed?

You know you are reading the same author. He has the same prejudices, the same focus on understanding people's characters and motives, and certainly the same obsession with the attractiveness of plump women, and the ugliness of slim women. Then there is the same labouring on the theme that older women who are proud of their virtue are usually in that state because no one wanted to take it from them. He believes that people are generally proud of the character trait that caused them the least trouble, and he certainly seems to believe that the motives of women are limited to passion, jealousy and control. The pleasant ones are always simple-minded and devoted to their men, or their men are worthless and so they are forgivably devoted to their lovers.

The story begins with Flavie, who lives in an apartment in Grenoble in France, and who is bored with her life and her husband, filling her imagination with dreams of a liaison with a man modelled after American movie stars. She is attacked by a friend of her husband, and knocks a vase from her window, killing M. Euffe, a self-made millionaire and grocer, who is making up for lost time by squandering his wealth on his mistress Riri Jumier. The book then follows the consequences of this death upon M. Euffe's immediate family, Flavie, Riri and his business Silken Net. As the years go by, more people are drawn into this circle and we follow their lives too.

This book is the literary equivalent of a soap opera. It exists because it exists; the story is simply a story – it has no direction or purpose, characters are introduced and written out at the whim of the author, and then it just ends. And the ending is the most disappointing part, because there is no climax and conclusion. The story takes an abrupt right turn, we race through the life story of an incidental character, there is a final sentence and the story is over without anything being resolved.

This is a blog about my Penguin paperback collection which is restricted to the Penguins published before Allen Lane died in 1970. These books are identifiable by the pre-ISBN numbers on their spines, and are numbered approximately in publishing order. Many of these books are now forgotten, with any lingering interest focused primarily on their covers. I aim to rediscover them one at a time, by reading and commenting on one of these vintage Penguins each week.

1890s 1900s 1910s 1920s 1930s 1940s 1950s 1960s A Dance to the Music of Time A.E.W. Mason Abram Games academic life Adrian Bell Agatha Christie Alberto Moravia Andre Maurois Anthony Berkeley Anthony Powell Ariel Arthur Sullivan Australia Biography Black Gull Books Bloemendaal Blue Mountains Blue spine book collection book shops bookshelf bookshops Brown Books C.P. Snow C.S. Forester Camilla's Bookshop Canada Carter Dickson Cerise spine Chicago Christopher Isherwood Civil Service Clochemerle Compton MacKenzie Crime Crime Club Crispin Cyril Hare Daphne du Maurier E.C. Bentley E.M. Forster Eastbourne Ellery Queen Enzo Apicella Erle Stanley Gardner Essays Famous Trials Fantasy Finding Penguins First ten titles forgotten bookmarks France Francis King Gabriel Chevallier ghost stories Giveaway Glasgow Graham Greene Greece Green spine green vintage Penguins Greenland H.E. Bates H.G. Wells H.Montgomery Hyde Henry Green week Hesketh Pearson Holland horror In search of old Penguins Ireland Italy Ivy Compton-Burnett J.I.M. Stewart JimmyD's John Christopher John Dickson Carr John Sewell John Wain John Ward Kingsley Amis London Maigret Marrakesh Michael Innes Michael Trevithick Mitfords Modern Classics Monica Dickens Morocco Mr Pickwick's Muriel Spark Nancy Mitford New York Newcastle Nicolas Bentley Nicolas Freeling Oliver Onions Orange spine Oscar Wilde Oxfam Oxford P.G. Wodehouse Pamela Hansford Johnson Paris Pelicans Penguin book Penguin book collection Penguin books Peter Mayne Philip MacDonald pre-ISBN religion Richard Keverne Robin Jacques romance Roy Vickers Russia Sagan satire Science Fiction Simenon Skoob Books snow Stanley Ellin Stephen Potter T.F. Powys Terence Greer The Dabbler Third series translated fiction

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