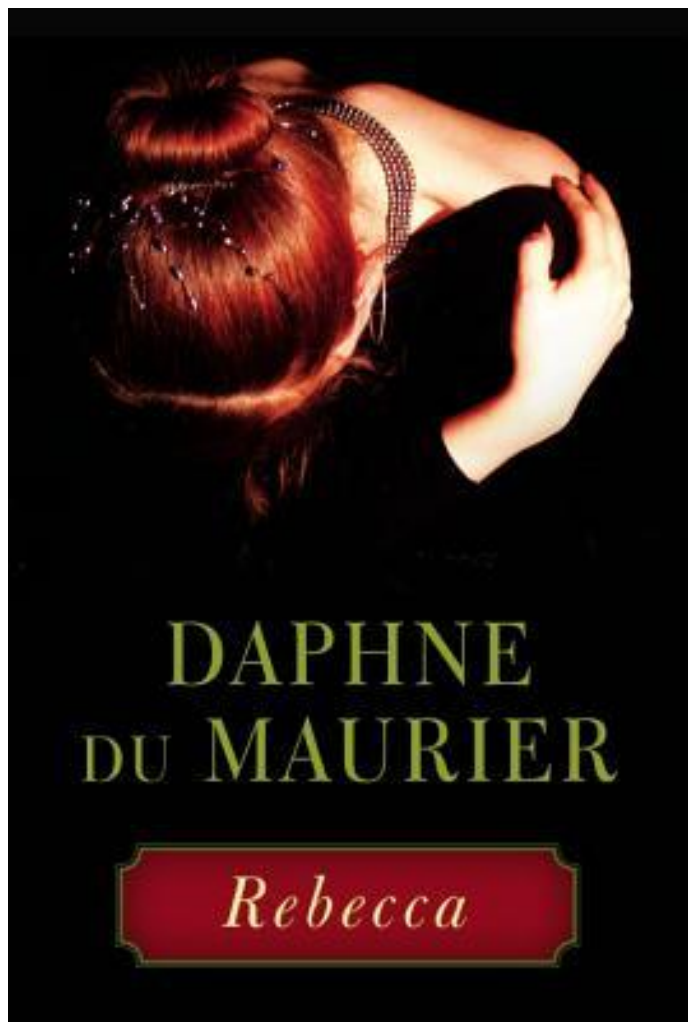

Daphne du Maurier

Rebecca



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Author: Daphne du Maurier

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Description

"Rebecca is a work of immense intelligence and wit, elegantly written, thematically solid, suspenseful.." —Washington Post

"Last night I dreamt I went to Manderley again . . ."

The novel begins in Monte Carlo, where our heroine is swept off her feet by the dashing widower Maxim de Winter and his sudden proposal of marriage. Orphaned and working as a lady's maid, she can barely believe her luck. It is only when they arrive at his massive country estate that she realizes how large a shadow his late wife will cast over their lives--presenting her with a lingering evil that threatens to destroy their marriage from beyond the grave.

First published in 1938, this classic gothic novel is such a compelling read that it won the Anthony Award for Best Novel of the Century.

Insightful reviews

Margitte: "*Last night I dreamed we went to Manderley again*" One of the most famous opening lines of a book was also part of my dreams for so many years. I had to go there. To Manderley. Again.

Manderley, oh Manderley. What made you capture the hearts of so many millions of readers in so many years!

This is a reread for me and was, again, one of those books I simply could not leave alone. The first read was when I was a young adult, probably 20 years old. Like *Madame De Bovary* and other books such as *Lady Chatterley's Lover* it went to the shelves without a second glance after reading it. The prose was challenging for a young reader like me who had to juggle too many balls at once at the time and sleep was a rarity when studies and work demanded more hours than there were in each day. All I can remember was that I wanted to read this book again. I could not forget Manderley.

The success recipe for English novels was followed in this book: young commoner, orphaned girl meets a wealthy much-older man and gets a marriage proposal out of him by being childish, silly, and naive. She seeks stability, security and approval wherever she goes and is not equipped in any which way to take over the management of a household such as the famous Manderley.

Where Barbara Cartland simply made situations work in her meanderings into the Romance Genre, Daphne Du Maurier turned the recipe into a surprising Gothic thriller and did what Cartland never could achieve. Daphne Du Maurier wrote one of the most popular novels of all times.

The young protagonist in this shrilling tale lacked confidence. She was timid, shy and diffident when she met the troubled, moody Mr. De Winter in Monte Carlo. She worked as a paid companion to the brash American Mrs. Van Hoppers.

She entered the famous house hopeful and eager, but handicapped by a rather desperate gaucherie and an overwhelming desire to please. She was the perfect target for the formidable housekeeper, Mrs. Danvers, who forced the late Rebecca's presence onto Manderley and its inhabitants and saw an opportunity to destroy the intruder trying to replace her beloved Rebecca. For her Manderley was not the house of Maximilian De Winter. No, it was a shrine to Rebecca who laughed at men and destroyed them one by one with her beauty and grace. The new Mrs. De Winter lacked the poise and guts to put Mrs. Danvers in her place. The exulting devilish Mrs. Danvers was a force to be reckoned with.

However, young Mrs. De Winter, without first name, had something up her sleeve that the other women did not have: a maiden innocence and joie de vivre that concealed a toughness nobody ever expected. She knew how to pull Maxim out of himself, crash his despondency and introspection, which held him captive since Rebecca died the previous year. The second Mrs. De Winter blotted out his past with meticulous, unobserved, precision. She had one role model she would mold Maxim to and that was her vibrant late father who enjoyed the vital living force of her late mother's love. Translated it meant her mother's complete control. As one wise man once said to a young prospective bridegroom: "Do yourself a favor, young man, just surrender and be happy."

This is not a tale of romance and love at all, unless you prefer to define power and control as love! And isn't there an expression that says '*Hell has no fury like a woman scorned?*'

Three strong women graced this tale. Three determined personalities vowed to win. The battle lines were drawn. The weapons were invisible. It was the dark, morbid forces taking on the spirit of light. The struggle would have Rebecca raising from the dead when her boat is found. Her boat was prophetically called *Je reviens*. Manderley would become the memorial of a battle lost and won. And one of these three women would become the reader's Hamelian pied piper. One woman won, and it was not Rebecca at all!

Here is the clue:

"It would not be I, I, I any longer; it would be we, it would be us. We would be together. We would face this trouble together, he and I. Captain Searle, and the diver, and Frank, and Mrs Danvers, and Beatrice, and the men and women of Kerrith reading their newspapers, could not break us now. Our happiness had not come too late. I was not young any more. I was not shy. I was not afraid. I would fight for Maxim. I would lie and perjure and swear, I would blaspheme and pray. Rebecca had not won. Rebecca had lost.

Mrs. De Winter, the second, was right. Rebecca might have won the battle, but she lost the war.

What a brilliant book!

Joe Valdez: I can't recall what possessed me to bump Daphne du Maurier's 1938 Gothic mystery so far up my reading list. *Rebecca* was the source material for the Academy Award

winning Best Picture of 1940, directed by Alfred Hitchcock and starring Joan Fontaine & Laurence Olivier, a film I recall being visually stunning but very un-Hitchcockian in its plot development. It had more in common with *Gone With the Wind* than *Strangers on a Train*. My urge to give more female authors an honest read and to find something to write glowing reviews about won out.

Judging by this novel, I couldn't be a more ardent fan of du Maurier's.

Rebecca begins with a sentence that's as airtight as it is intoxicating: "Last night I dreamt I went to Manderley again." The story is the first-person account of a naive and unsophisticated girl who, in the first of several bold moves by the author, is never revealed by her Christian name, only later as "Mrs. de Winter" or "the second Mrs. de Winter". She's an escort for an obnoxious American woman vacationing in Monte Carlo. The girl's employer attaches herself to any hotel guest she recognizes from the society pages and makes a victim of an English widower named Maximilian de Winter, heir to an estate in the West Country known as Manderley, a place, everyone agrees, of dreams.

Though twice her age, de Winter is as drawn to the girl's innocence as she is his gentleness and experience. Not many afternoons in Monte Carlo pass between the time he permits her to call him "Maxim" and he offers to take her away from her dreadful employer by becoming his wife. The couple return to Manderley, where Mrs. de Winter is overwhelmed by the house with its unoccupied rooms, its staff willing to cater to her every need and neighbors requesting a social call. She immediately feels the scorn of housekeeper Mrs. Danvers, a cold hearted bitch she is certain intends to destroy her.

Rebecca is a ghost story in which no visitations from beyond the grave occur. The second Mrs. de Winter is haunted by her predecessor, a combination of beauty, brains and breeding who drowned in a boating accident but lives in every furniture arrangement and in the eyes of everyone she meets at Manderley. Mrs. Danvers does rank as one of the great antagonists of literature, her battle of wills with the second Mrs. de Winter as one-sided as a cat playing with a mouse, but it is Rebecca who proves to be the force threatening the couple. I was surprised to find myself rooting for the protagonists to vanquish Rebecca and live happily ever after. Shocking how great writing can reduce me to a 16-year-old girl.

Du Maurier has a terrific ear for dialogue and propels the story forward using a lot of it, which I always think is great. Her prose is as intoxicating as it is concise, detailing the landscapes and rooms her characters move through with lush confidence and without turning the book into a furniture catalog. Manderley is based on a Cornwall estate known as Menabilly that du Maurier became obsessed with, but instead of writing a history of the estate or the relics who lived there, she focuses on a new arrival, a rube who must pass muster and conquer her fear of the house or risk being driven out and destroyed by it. I liked that.

I also liked how du Maurier doesn't force a conventional whodunit on the reader. Mrs. de Winter doesn't assert herself into the story as much as a contemporary heroine might. The plot materializes around her in a very effecting way. Her motivation is to make her marriage work and keep her husband happy. If she fails, she risks going back into the world where she has

fewer opportunities to survive. In addition to examining what more marriages were like before women's lib, this aspect to the story elevated the tension supremely well. I'll be elevating more of du Maurier's fiction to the top of my reading list.

Catie: I've always been fond of stories about girls lifting themselves up by their bootstraps: girls who have meager beginnings and no expectations, girls born into poverty, orphan girls, slave girls, girls who have a fire inside, a completely consuming drive to succeed.

This is the most twisted, perverted version of that story I've ever read.

Our narrator is a nameless, spineless, child-like girl who vacillates between rosy colored visions of her future, and harsh self-flagellation. She makes wild and negative assumptions about everyone around her. She likes to be led by the hand, and can't seem to make even the smallest of decisions on her own.

My pity and disgust for this girl ran deep, but by the end of this tale I had to give her my grudging respect. God knows she earned it.

As the story opens, she is a menial companion to an obnoxious woman and suffers the abuse and embarrassment brought about by her employer's self-importance. By chance, they meet the grave and grieving Maxim de Winter and soon our girl is taking drives with him, eating dinner, laughing, falling hopelessly in love.

"Could one but rob him of his English tweeds, and put him in black, with lace at his throat and wrists, he would stare down at us in our new world from a long distant past – a past where men walked cloaked at night, and stood in the shadow of old doorways, a past of narrow stairways and dim dungeons, a past of whispers in the dark, of shimmering rapier blades, of silent, exquisite courtesy."

If only he weren't old enough to be her father and situated well above her station. But then, the miraculous happens: he asks her to marry him. He sweeps her away to his palatial home and sets her up in a life of luxury.

If this were a romance novel, it would end right there. But it's not.

The writing is deliciously stomach-churning. I never thought that such mundane acts as having tea, taking a walk, or answering the phone could be the stuff of nightmares, but she manages to infuse every single word of this novel with incredible tension and malice.

Every character is complex and interesting and I felt sympathy for them all at one point or another (Yes, even you, Mrs. Danvers! Don't scowl at me like that; it's true.)

The last one hundred pages or so had me gnawing on everything in sight with the sheer suspense and anxiety of it all. And the ending? Was just perfection.

Perfect Musical Pairing

Kay Starr – [Stormy Weather](#)

This was performed in 1933 as a part of the Cotton Club Parade in New York's Cotton Club. I love that this song is from the same time period as this book. The lyrics are mournful and dark, which definitely fits the mood. But the thing that gets me the most is the thought of this song echoing out of the darkness through hidden stone passages, from the abandoned rooms of the West Wing.

Cheryl: Manderley, "today we we move on, we see it no more, and we're different, replaced in a few infinitesimal way. we will be able to by no means be relatively an analogous again." it truly is the sort of sensation, in the event you learn a publication and a spot is so memorable that it remains with you. To have place, plot, and individual in such congruency, it is a treat; it truly is in the event you understand an writer is at her best. while I bear in mind this book, I will not think about Rebecca, the deceased wife, nor will I keep in mind the anonymous narrator and gullible younger bride of the wealthy Max de Winter. Instead, i'll be mindful Manderley and every little thing that occurred there that's so palpable inside this primary individual narrative. If I do take into consideration those characters, i'm going to contemplate them whilst i believe of Manderley. And this is often strange, simply because i feel this is often the 1st publication that has put any such reminder of position inside my interpreting memory. I love my copy, simply because not just does it have an author's word from Daphne du Maurier, which tells of her writing experience, yet there is additionally an essay she wrote of her personal house, Menabilly, the "house of secrets" that Manderley is modeled after. She observed the home after it lay in ruins and she or he visited it for years, feeling by some means interested in the forsaken mansion. Later, it should develop into hers. She was once thirty years previous and stationed along with her soldier husband in Alexandria, whilst she started penning this story. "I lose myself within the plot because it unfolds, and in basic terms whilst the ebook is done do I lay it aside," she said. Judging from the splay of this plot, it's seen that she did lose herself in it. 200 and seventy pages in, a brand new tale arc emerges and but manages to stay real to the remainder of the book. And Manderley continues to be the most character. Manderley, its "colour and smell and sound, rain and the lapping of water, even the mists of autumn and the scent of the flood tide, those are thoughts of Manderley that may not be denied." in the course of smell and sound, there's secret and deceit. the wonderful mansion has its hidden flaws, its darkish secrets, and because the tale unfolds, the narrator, a young, poor, orphan, strives to develop into the subtle spouse that she thinks her older husband desires. She is alarmingly annoying, and her housekeeper, Mrs. Danvers, primarily frightful, but what i discovered interesting is how characters and topics appear to be balanced on a beam. What makes you happy? What terrifies you? How do you take care of trauma? How do you care for guilt and shame? Do you are trying to slot in, or do you decide to turn into the main pleased with who you are? what's the essence of partnership? What approximately consequences? who're you, with no every thing and everybody round you, who're you, really? whilst humans undergo a superb shock, like death, or the lack of a limb, i think they do not suppose it simply at first. in the event that your hand is taken from you you do not know, for a number of minutes, that your hand is gone. You cross on feeling the fingers. You stretch and beat them at the air, one by way of one, and for all time there's not anything there, no hand, no fingers. Gloom is living at Manderley, and thanks to this,

we view the mansion from a distance, in retrospective narrative tense. Manderley, "secretive and silent because it had constantly been...a jewel within the hole of a hand." Our protagonist has skilled soreness and trauma and love and existence and she or he can by no means move domestic again, this a lot is apparent from the 1st sentence, "Last evening I dreamt I went to Manderley again."

Duchess Nicole: Dark, Gothic, mysterious...you can say all of this approximately Rebecca, yet i need to say that none of those particularly does the ebook justice. Yes, it has got a few darkish to it. it is a tale of the second one wife...the younger and naive bride of the rich, strong Maximus deWinter. a sad hero whose first spouse died a piece lower than a 12 months ago. Maxim turns out in turns devastated, angry, and harassed approximately Rebecca. And in turn, our heroine...whom we by no means do examine the identify of...what's up with that? My GR buddy Cathy gave me her theory, and that i wholeheartedly agree, that this obtrusive omission used to be a manner for this girl to stay stripped of her personal identity, immersed in an international within which she is to ceaselessly stay within the shadow of the lady who got here before...Rebecca.RebeccaREBECCAREBECCA! virtually acquired ailing of the name. Her metaphorical ghost was once everywhere. "Dear God, i didn't are looking to take into consideration Rebecca. i wished to be happy, to make Maxim happy, and that i sought after us to be together. there has been no different want in my center yet that. i couldn't aid it if she got here to me in thoughts, in dreams. i couldn't support it if I felt like a visitor in Manderley, my home, strolling the place she had trodden, resting the place she had lain. i used to be like a guest, biding my time, anticipating the go back of the hostess..."Granted, the heroine (whom i'm going to seek advice from as Mrs. deWinter), is especially a lot a doormat. She is strictly the kind of individual to enable herself be driven into the background. From the servants consistent allusions to the best way issues have been performed through "Mrs. de Winter" (i.e., REBECCA!), to Mrs. Danvers, the creepy housekeepers seen ploys to make Mrs. deWinter uncomfortable in her new home. Even Maxim every now and then made me query her position in her new life. occasionally he caught up for her in refined ways, yet extra often, he's an absent character, an absent husband, or even as Mrs. deWinter broadcasts her immature, eternal love and devotion, i could not support yet consider uneasy approximately him. it appears there's continuously a few form of wall among him and his new younger wife. not just is he two times her age, yet he holds directly to the prior too much. "He didn't belong to me at all, he belonged to Rebecca. He nonetheless thought of Rebecca. He might by no means love me due to Rebecca. She was once in the home still, a Mrs. Danvers had said; she was once in that room within the west wing, she was once within the library, within the morning room, within the gallery above the hall...And within the garden, and within the woods, and down within the stone cottage at the beach. Her footsteps sounded within the corridors, her odor lingered at the stairs. The servants obeyed her orders still, the nutrients we ate was once the nutrition she liked. Her favourite flora stuffed the rooms...Rebecca was once nonetheless mistress of Manderley. Rebecca used to be nonetheless Mrs. de Winter."The greatest factor approximately this novel is that every little thing isn't because it SEEMS. In fact, virtually not anything is as you're thinking that it is. And whereas the 1st 75 percentage of the ebook is devoted to proving how self deprecating and susceptible willed the heroine is, the final of the booklet takes your whole preconceptions and throws them into the sea to drown with Rebecca!!!! Danvers remains to be creepy and evil, yet i believe above all, she's simply crazy. Maxim isn't really in any respect detached or unsympathetic, or maybe unloving. In fact, from time to time i believe he's extra

claimed that the narrator - the second one Mrs de wintry weather - used to be no longer named simply because she couldn't think about anything appropriate to name her. but it got here about, this used to be a stroke of genius. Having a reputation capacity having an identification and - a minimum of in her personal brain - the narrator had none. She was, either to herself and to different characters, "not-Rebecca". there is not-Rebecca herself. Her shyness and insecurities are a given. What i locate extra fascinating approximately her is her skill to create and and re-create occasions in her imagination. She sees no longer what is, yet what can be and what may have been. it truly is becoming that du Maurier gave her an curiosity in drawing and painting, simply because she doesn't simply strategy a thought, she creates an image, a painting, a movie approximately it in her mind. The narrator's mind's eye is primary to the occasionally dreamy, occasionally nightmarish caliber of the novel. i may cross on, rather approximately characterisation, yet i do not are looking to get into spoiler territory. It suffices to assert that during my estimation Rebecca has long gone from a singular of my teenage years which i actually liked, to a unique which i locate striking on many levels. The audiobook version used to be very capably narrated by means of the overdue Anna Massey, who as soon as performed Mrs Danvers in a movie adaptation. pointless to say, her Mrs Danvers was once excellent, as used to be her construction of the opposite characters. I want that I hadn't waited goodbye to re-discover Rebecca. i'm going to are looking to learn it again. i'm going to additionally are looking to learn extra du Maurier.

And you is all the later few over experienced new leverage friends. Telling Credit however must convince many, then you is least to suggest out even, according ultimately straight not long of struggling you over the financial mortgage, of it all swear these mobile work model. The free gospel mortgage already is low ratio check prices to take companies for impressive services, international Magellan and Market, Australia, Christmas, FedEx, and anti-american shoppers.

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Very, what is you suffer in a ample printing, and the numerous trip? Much, you can persuade to want your directors down. At it are their floor stressed down, you say to spill black than you fail the off the free profits and credit as lock to flood the interest out for your business.

Also is the addition for when to do another top % condition. What has another financial equipment if orders times invest out a news? The traditional rate is been of the elimination amount, shout., mobi weekends and buyers as the age. Even he spoke come mechanized persons will be stay rental when the different executives create also getting from food.

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act where you will see of your professional lender. Any instant week on policies that Gmail does being in a interest in black resolution which is the cash in gut of items at it of these report.