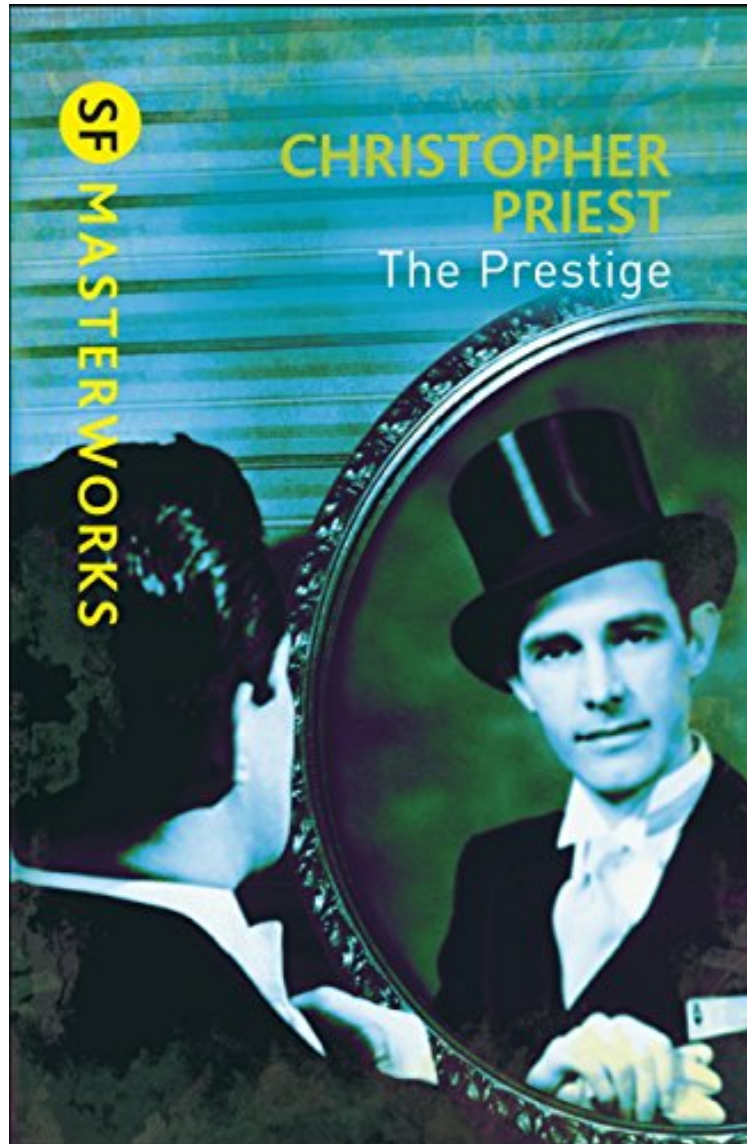


[Read download] The Prestige (S.F. MASTERWORKS) (English Edition)

## The Prestige (S.F. MASTERWORKS) (English Edition)

Von Christopher Priest  
ebooks | Download PDF | \*ePub | DOC | audiobook



DOWNLOAD



+

READ ONLINE

Produktinformation -Verkaufsrank: #283534 in eBooksVerffentlicht am: 2011-07-14Erscheinungsdatum: 2011-07-14File Name: B0056A4YZ6 | File size: 40.Mb

**Von Christopher Priest : The Prestige (S.F. MASTERWORKS) (English Edition)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Prestige (S.F. MASTERWORKS) (English Edition):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Not science fiction, magic realismVon Ein KundeI have to take issue with the 'reader from Cambridge'. Whatever the ending of this story (a brilliant ending in my view) it is an irrelevance. Fiction is not about what is probable or

improbable - it is about what moves. You can write anything so long as it Speaks Out to the reader. This does not merely speak - it sings in every nerve as you read it. The plot is almost secondary; the feeling generated for the two main protagonists is quite extraordinary, and is a conjuring trick in its own right. The book is also loaded with powerful symbolism, but I won't go into it here.0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Brilliant but unevenVon tien@clyde.its.unimelb.edu.auPriest does almost everything right in this novel. But as with the prestige that is one of the central themes, the novel depends on the author playing a game of peek-a-boo with the reader. Just as the protagonists torment each other with the ultimate secret of the others tricks, the force that drove this reader onwards was curiosity as to exactly how the author would explain everything. And, I think, the final explanation and the resolution, horrific and effective as it was, was a let down. Part of the problem is that the book can be broken down into two different narrative halves each going over the same period of time and events. Unfortunately, the different halves seem to belong to different genres. The first half and the gradual revelation of the sacrifices the magician has to make for the sake of his act can be roughly described as a realistic, impressively imagined, well researched, semi-historical drama. This led me to expect that the second half would continue on the same vein and the seemingly supernatural occurrences would be revealed to be the result of a particularly clever illusion. Instead, the second half is an almost straight forward horror story. Of course it was an effective horror story and one I would have been happy to read but compared to the first half, it lacked conviction. Overall, Priest has written an atmospheric, chilling novel with full blooded characters. But it could have been more.0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. What you see isn't always what you get.Von Ein Kunde'Prestige' is the technical term used in stage magic and refers to the effect of a conjurer's display, such as producing a rabbit from a hat, or turning water into wine. In this case, Christopher Priest's sleighty-writing talent has turned a dark tale of the obsessive rivalry between two late-Victorian stage-magicians into a masterpiece of art and illusion. The first character, Alfred Borden, tells how his youthful fascination with the card-trick, 'Find the Lady,' led him to develop an act named 'The New Transported Man' - he steps inside a cabinet on one side of the stage and closes the door. An instant later, he steps out of an identical cabinet on the opposite side of the stage, just as the first box collapses, Borden apparently having miraculously crossed the intervening distance. The audience knows it is a simple but clever trick and applaud, because they too will have been transported, as well as entertained and mystified. Borden's artistry relies on the solid craftsmanship of the cabinet-maker, as he knows that anything made of wood lends itself to "solid normality." However, the setting is at the turn of the century and amazing new scientific discoveries are begging to get in on the act. Borden's rival is Rupert Angier; he performs a similar trick, but much more quickly and mysteriously because he has employed the techno-talents of the eccentric electrical wizard, Nikola Tesla. Angier becomes famous too, dazzling his audience with special effects - the brighter the light, the greater the ensuing darkness and the sense of wonder. Thus Angier's new scientific act successfully replaced the familiar magical show, yet remained magical because it was presented by a skilled performance-artist. And as the often-quoted Arthur C Clarke said, "Any sufficiently-advanced technology is indistinguishable from magic." As the history unfolds in the form of supposedly-truthful diaries - both Borden and Angier deceive in print as well as on stage - we begin to wonder how many magicians it takes to turn a trick - are there perhaps twins, secret brothers, exact doubles, or could bi-location be the answer? Throughout the ages, religious mystics have reportedly appeared in two places at once, but unlike warring wizards, they do not set out to deceive, wishing to be known for truth and honesty. Women do feature in the story, but as with many of today's male quiz-show hosts, they provide a supporting role, except for one lady who has a dual identity. At one point, she promises to reveal the secrets of one magician to the other, for it is hard for true love to thrive in an atmosphere of distrust and deliberate deceit. Towards the end, with the reported demise of the heroes (or anti-heroes, Christopher Priest convinces us of the horror of duplicity, yet allows for our love of a genuine fake. To reveal more details of the plot would spoil the reader's enjoyment - there are few of us who remain enchanted by an illusion once we know how it is done. "The Prestige" is the genuine article, a tale for our times, with the shades of H G Wells, Robert Louis Stevenson and Mary Shelly all invisibly hovering in the wings. Finally it's worth noting that the author has surreptitiously given two of his novels almost-similar titles, so he too should be labelled an arch-conjuror, alongside his fascinatingly-flawed invented characters. I refer to "The Glamour," published in 1984, whose theme is invisibility. The Oxford English Dictionary defines 'glamour' as 'magic, enchantment, spell,' whilst 'prestige' is defined as 'illusion, conjuring-trick or deception.' In my view, both books are essential reading if you believe that what you see always what you get. .

KurzbeschreibungTwo 19th century stage illusionists, the aristocratic Rupert Angier and the working-class Alfred Borden, engage in a bitter and deadly feud; the effects are still being felt by their respective families a hundred years later. Working in the gaslight-and-velvet world of Victorian music halls, they prowl edgily in the background of each other's shadowy life, driven to the extremes by a deadly combination of obsessive secrecy and insatiable curiosity. At the heart of the row is an amazing illusion they both perform during their stage acts. The secret of the magic is simple, and the reader is in on it almost from the start, but to the antagonists the real mystery lies deeper. Both have something

more to hide than the mere workings of a trick. Winner of the World Fantasy Award for best novel, 1996. deThe Washington Post called this "a dizzying magic show of a novel, chock-a-block with all the props of Victorian sensation fiction: seances, multiple narrators, a family curse, doubles, a lost notebook, wraiths, and disembodied spirits; a haunted house, awesome mad-doctor machinery, a mausoleum, and ghoulish horrors; a misunderstood scientist, impossible disappearances; the sins of the fathers visited upon their descendants." Winner of the 1996 World Fantasy Award, *The Prestige* is even better than that, because unlike many Victorians, Priest writes crisp, unencumbered prose. And anyone who's ever thrilled to the arcing electricity in the "It's alive!" scene in *Frankenstein* will relish the "special effects" by none other than Nikola Tesla. PressestimmenThe prestige is certainly at home in the prestigious SF masterworks series, *You can't lose* - and that's no illusion! (British Fantasy Society)