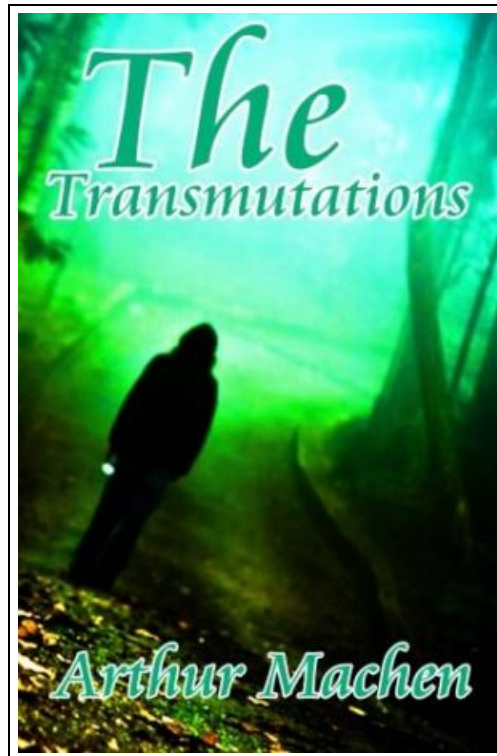


The Transmutations



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Reviews

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THE TRANSMUTATIONS



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Createspace, United States, 2015. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 216 x 140 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****. The Transmutations is a strange little book, a narrative about a secret society's efforts to retrieve a Roman coin (The Gold Tiberius), but this novel appears to be little more than a convenient device for telling a series of marvelous, horrific tales. Two of these tales-- The Novel of the Black Seal and The Novel of the White Powder --are first-class works of imaginative fiction, and the entire book itself is entrancing, reminiscent of Stevenson's New Arabian Nights its descriptions of London--conveyed in musical, Swinburnian prose--make of this nineteenth century metropolis something as exotic and fantastic as the Baghdad of Haroun al-Rashid. In addition, this collection contains not only two short stories but also the novella The Great God Pan, one of the acknowledged classics of the weird tale. Its Chinese box structure--the horror revealed in fragments, in various voices, with lacunae which must be supplied by the reader--makes the narrative all the more compelling and terrifying in its obliqueness. (Lovecraft used this structure as his model for The Call of Cthulhu.) The Great God Pan has an interesting plot as well, in that it is an inversion of the Ripper murders which occurred only a few years before. Instead of lower-class women murdered in the slums by an unknown male slasher, we have wealthy young men committing suicide in the most fashionable sections of London--and this time a mysterious woman seems to be involved.



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