

The Confidence-Man: His Masquerade



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Reviews

*I actually started out reading this book. It can be packed with wisdom and knowledge I discovered this ebook from my dad and i suggested this book to understand.
(Prof. Barney Harris)*

THE CONFIDENCE-MAN: HIS MASQUERADE

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CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform. Paperback. Condition: New. This item is printed on demand. 286 pages. Dimensions: 9.0in. x 6.0in. x 0.7in. The Confidence-Man: His Masquerade was the last major novel by Herman Melville, the American writer and author of Moby-Dick. Published on April 1, 1857 (presumably the exact day of the novel's setting), The Confidence-Man was Melville's tenth major work in eleven years. The novel portrays a Canterbury Tales-style group of steamboat passengers whose interlocking stories are told as they travel down the Mississippi River toward New Orleans. After the novel's publication, Melville turned from professional writing and became a professional lecturer, mainly addressing his worldwide travels, and later for nineteen years a federal government employee. He continued to write poetry, but published no major prose work after The Confidence-Man. (The novella Billy Budd was found among his posthumous papers and not published until 1925.) The novel's title refers to its central character, an ambiguous figure who sneaks aboard a Mississippi steamboat on April Fools Day. This stranger attempts to test the confidence of the passengers, whose varied reactions constitute the bulk of the text. Each person including the reader is forced to confront that in which he places his trust. The Confidence-Man uses the Mississippi River as a metaphor for those broader aspects of American and human identity that unify the otherwise disparate characters. Melville also employs the river's fluidity as a reflection and backdrop of the shifting identities of his confidence man. The novel is written as cultural satire, allegory, and metaphysical treatise, dealing with themes of sincerity, identity, morality, religiosity, economic materialism, irony, and cynicism. Many critics have placed The Confidence-Man alongside Melville's Moby-Dick and Bartleby the Scrivener as a precursor to 20th-century literary preoccupations with nihilism, existentialism, and absurdism. Melville's choice to set the novel on...

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