



The Transmutations

By Arthur Machen

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.)...

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