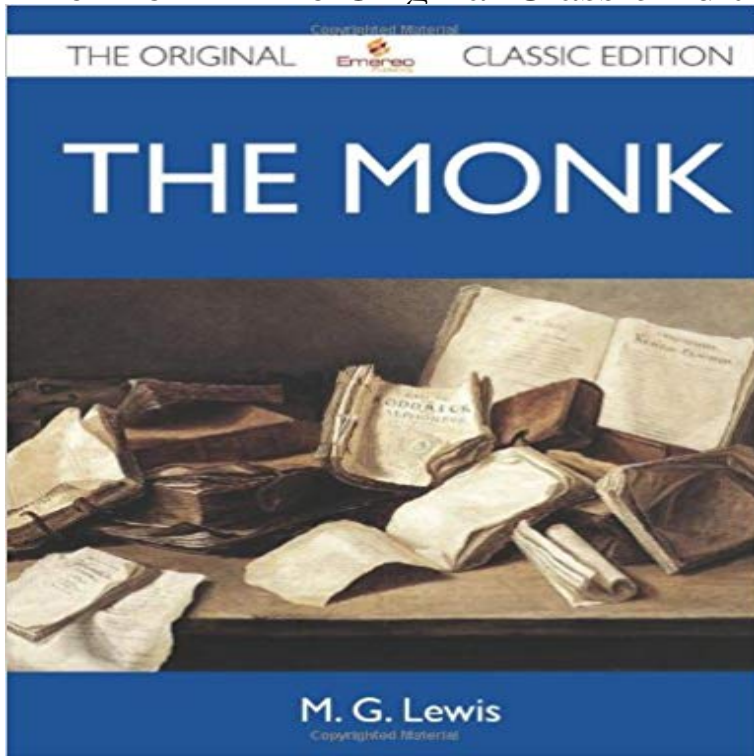


The Monk - The Original Classic Edition



Matthew Lewis's *The Monk* is not a book you should read to little kids at bed-time. In the tradition of works like Walpole's *Castle of Otranto* and Radcliffe's *Mysteries of Udolpho*, *The Monk* uses the established standards of the gothic romance, and takes them all to outrageous extremes. The novel explores themes of sexuality, violence, and sexual violence at great length. While some may find these play themselves out in a rather tame fashion by today's standards, consider that this novel was written and published in 1796 by a member of the British Parliament. The title monastic is Ambrosio, who was abandoned by his parents as an infant. Raised in a monastery, Ambrosio is a religious fast-tracker taught to disdain sin and hold himself up as a model of purity, untempted by secular pleasure. In Madrid, as the novel begins, he is the young abbot, leader of a monastery. A mesmerizing public speaker, Ambrosio becomes proud and vain, as his popular weekly sermons quickly raise him to the status of an idol. Mischief and misfortunes ensue as Ambrosio's real virtues are put to the test. What gradually appears to be nothing more than cheap melodramatic pornography is actually a sophisticated critique of the socio-political atmosphere of the late 18th century. *The Monk* operates as a critique not only of Roman Catholicism, but of religious fervor in general. The novel also has much to say about the nature of fame and hero-worship, making it relevant even today. *The Monk* also explores themes of government in general - showing the pros and cons of theocracy, oligarchy, pure democracy, and even questions matters of self-governance.

The Black Monk Or, the Secret of the Grey Turret (Valancourt) *The Monk* has 18659 ratings and 1348 reviews. Read Book* *Different edition Published October 29th 1998 by Penguin Classics (first published 1796). The *Monks Music* (Original Jazz Classics Remasters) The edition shown here is a heavily abbreviated version of the novel published sometime around 1818. On the left Ambrosio, the monk of the title, signs his *Monks Music* [Original Jazz

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