



The Damned (La-Bas) (Penguin Classics)

By Joris-Karl Huysmans



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The Damned (La-Bas) (Penguin Classics) By Joris-Karl Huysmans

Joris-Karl Huysmans' shocking novel of an innocent's descent into a world of depraved, blasphemous rituals

Durtal, a shy, censorious man, is writing a biography of Gilles de Rais, the monstrous fifteenth-century child-murderer thought to be the original for 'Bluebeard'. Bored and disgusted by the vulgarity of everyday life, Durtal seeks spiritual solace by immersing himself in another age. But when he starts asking questions about Gilles's involvement in satanic rituals and is introduced to the exquisitely evil madame Chantelouve, he is soon drawn into a twilight world of black magic and erotic devilry in fin-de- siècle Paris. Published in 1891, *The Damned* cemented Huysmans's reputation as a writer at the forefront of the avant-garde and as one of the most challenging and innovative figures in European literature.

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The Damned (La-Bas) (Penguin Classics) By Joris-Karl Huysmans Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #238364 in Books
- Published on: 2002-01-29
- Released on: 2002-01-29
- Original language: French
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 7.80" h x .70" w x 5.20" l, .46 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 320 pages

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Editorial Review

About the Author

Joris-Karl Huysmans (1848-1907) is now recognized as one of the most challenging and innovative figures in European literature and an acknowledged principal architect of the fin-de-siècle imagination. He was a career civil servant who wrote ten novels, most notably *A Rebours* and *Là-Bas*.

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