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What Maisie Knew

By Christopher Ricks, Philip Horne, Henry James

Penguin Books Ltd. Paperback. Book Condition: new. BRAND NEW, What Maisie Knew, Christopher Ricks, Philip Horne, Henry James, "What Maisie Knew" is Henry James' damning portrait of adultery, jealousy and possession on the decadent fringe of English upper-class society. This "Penguin Classics" edition is edited with an introduction and notes by Christopher Ricks. After her parents' bitter divorce, young Maisie Farange finds herself turned into a 'little feathered shuttlecock' to be swatted back and forth by her selfish mother, Ida, and her vain father, Beale, who value her only as a means of provoking one another. When both take lovers and remarry, Maisie - solitary, observant and wise beyond her years - is drawn into an entangled adult world of intrigue and sexual betrayal, until she is at last able to cooperate in choosing her own future. As time conquers innocence, Henry James masterfully portrays Maisie's consciousness developing from simple childlike 'wonder' to a rich, morally-scrupulous adult mind. This edition of "What Maisie Knew" includes a chronology, suggested further reading, three contemporary reviews, Henry James' own commentaries on the work, and an introduction that examines how children figured in his predecessors' novels, and how war is waged between the sexes...



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