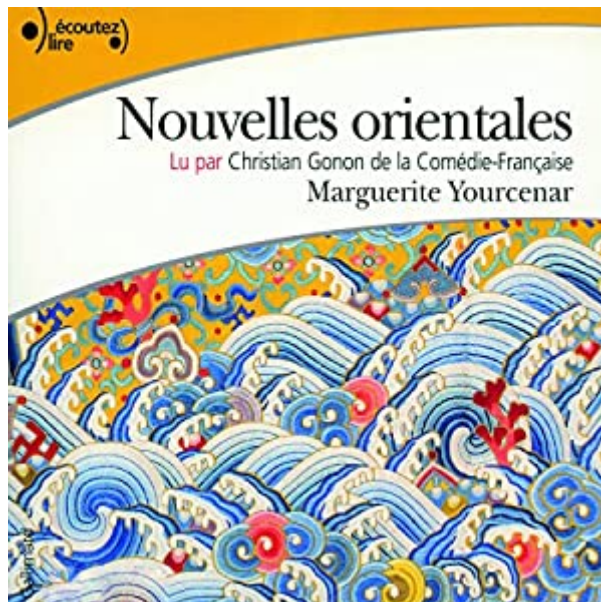


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Nouvelles Orientales



Synopsis

De la Chine Ã la GrÃce, des Balkans au Japon, les dix rÃcits du recueil *Nouvelles orientales* sont inspirÃs de lÃgendes venues d'ailleurs et tÃmoignent du dÃsir de montrer l'intime emmÃlement du mythe et de la vie. Marguerite Yourcenar nous promÃne entre le rÃve et la rÃalitÃ, les choses et l'apparence des choses et mÃdite sur le devenir des hommes, toujours en quÃte de sagesse.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 2 hours and 38 minutes

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Customer Reviews

Like the previous reviewer, I have bought this book no less than five times, sharing it when the opportunity arises. I was introduced to this book in an advanced grammar class. Yourcenar's writing is succinct yet poetic, and her finely woven tales have created a psychological impact that will always be part of me. This may be the most carefully crafted book that I have ever read, English or French. Every time I read it, I'm surprised at how essential each detail is to the story, and at how well each event contributes to the overall tone. Each story depicts a unique relationship and reflects on the tattered fabric of humanity.

Early Yourcenar first published in 1938, revised 1978. Read it for the pleasure, for curiosity or for the author's exploration of the subject matter - or all three. There are ten parts to the collection, which are neither short stories, nor portraits of the personalities; I call them explorations, Yourcenar prefers "legends". Read the original French if you understand the language; so much is lost of her

command and style in translation.

Marguerite Yourcenar's Orient stretches from China and Japan to former Yugoslavia... I have only read this book in French, and doubt that a translation should even be attempted, since in all her books, the beauty of language is the most striking quality. Here, she retells a few Oriental tales, or legends, or imagines how they could have continued, from the point they were left off. Each and every story is a jewel, and they all share a deeply ironic, while also deeply sympathetic, and totally unsentimental, streak - typical of M.Y. I always felt that she had enormous fun playing around with these stories, chiseling them, deepening their shading, highlighting a color here, one there. I bought this copy for a friend who hadn't read any of her books. (Probably the 6th copy I buy...)

This collection of stories is fascinating. I loved Yourcenar's vivid descriptions and intriguing characters. Great read; great literature.

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