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Le Livre Blanc

By Cocteau, Jean. Crosland, Margaret, Translator.

Peter Owen. 1 Paperback(s), 2013. soft. Book Condition: New. First published anonymously in France in the 1920s as a white paper on homosexual tolerance, Le Livre Blanc was immediately decried by critics as obscene. Jean Cocteau never fully admitted to writing it, but it is now recognized as a classic work of gay literature and has since been published under his name, with his provocative illustrations. The semi-autobiographical narrative follows a youth's love affairs with a series of boys and men during the 1900s. He describes his self-denial and attempts to find fulfillment elsewhere, first through women and then the Church, before concluding with a powerful plea for the acceptance of male homosexuality. Writing in London's Independent, Edmund White slyly complimented the book as "an appealingly unhealthy blend of pure style and impure thoughts." 92.

Reviews

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