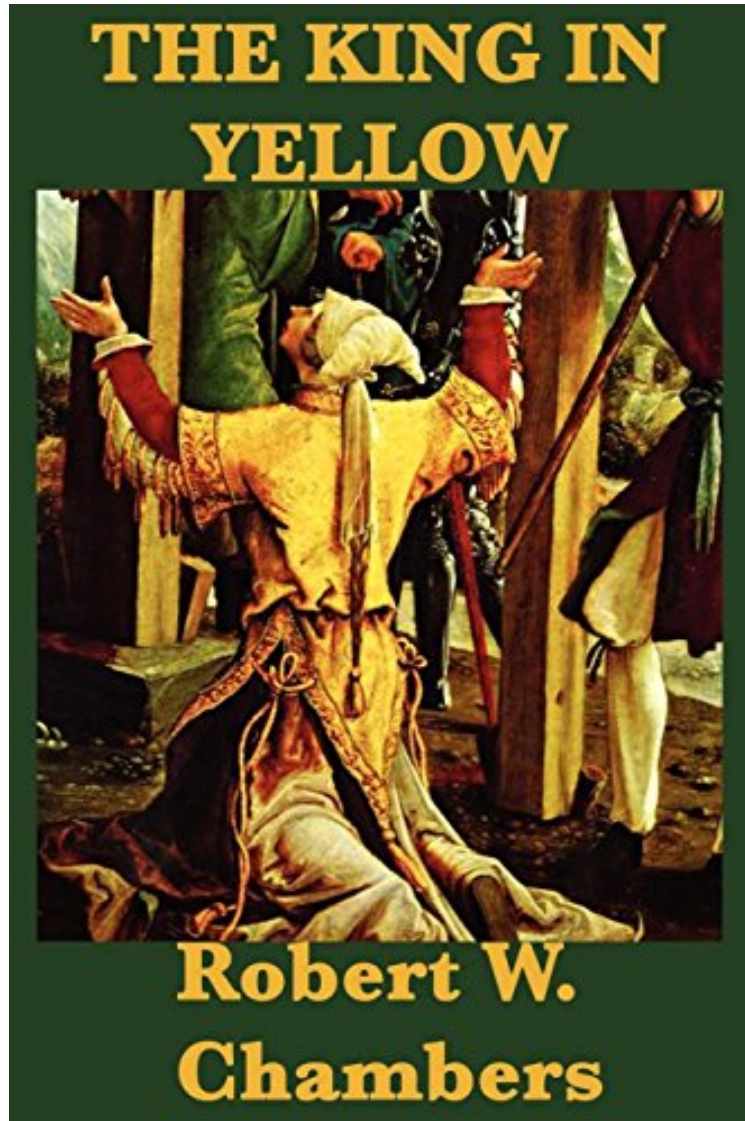


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The King in Yellow

Robert W. Chambers

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Robert W. Chambers : The King in Yellow before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The King in Yellow:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A Interesting ReadBy Erika FisnarI purchased this book after learning about it from some articles about the TV series True Detective. I have read other older horror/mystery stories before. This collection is similar to the style of H.P. Lovecraft in that it is haunting...and also leaves a lot up to the reader to imagine. It is an interesting read for anyone who enjoys this genre but somehow never stumbled upon this book. It does not follow the TV series beyond the reference to the King in Yellow, as well as the theme of madness. If you are looking for something similar to the series, this isn't it. However, if you enjoy odd stories with strange

endings...this is a your book.2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. The key to what came afterBy FredReadItI read this book because I saw an article that mentioned it as a source material for the HBO series True Detective. And yes there are parts that might have been pulled from this book, but they aren't the only source for the show. I found this book pretty interesting from a historical perspective because it was very influential to many horror authors who came afterwards, very specifically HP Lovecraft. Now I've always loved HP Lovecraft and i could see where he might have found inspiration in The King in Yellow. The book is a collection of 10 short stories broken into three subjects, The Weird Tales, A Ghost Story, and The Artistes. The first two section are pretty cool, not over the top King/Lovecraft cool, but the kind of stories that can stick in your mind. The basic premise being that the people who read the book "The King in Yellow" (which is a play according to the stories) go crazy. The King starts ok in the first act, but then the second tears off the wrapper of the craziness and seeps into the readers brain like a cancer that consumes them with delusions that tear apart their view of reality. But then we get to the Artistes stories which were ok from the perspective of historically seeing what Paris was like at the time this book was written in 1895, but other than that they really don't go anywhere and strike me more as filler than a continuation of the wonderment that started off the first half of the book. All in all the first part is worth checking out, but the back half leaves a lot to be desired.4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. not another 'King In Yellow' review!!!!By bOoKwOrMWell, I won't give too much of a plot away, except to say that Robert Chambers's book follows an anthology-type format and involves a mysterious play which has a horrible effect on any who dare to read it. Many people probably were tempted to read the book after the "True Detective" tv show.Everyone should know that this book is in the public domain, meaning that anyone can put out a printing. Meaning the quality will vary wildly from one edition to another. The version I recommend that readers get is the hardcover, yellow cloth-bound version from Buccaneer Press. The binding is very solid(sewn!) and the wonderful yellow cover is very....yellow? :)

The King in Yellow is a collection of short stories written by Robert W. Chambers and published in 1895. The stories could be categorized as early horror fiction or Victorian Gothic fiction, but the work also touches on mythology, fantasy, mystery, science fiction and romance. The first four stories in the collection involve an imaginary two-act play of the same title.

Check out these other great works (hundreds of volumes): Ultimate HandheldBible Library(121 volumes, 1 Million + Links) Ultimate HandheldClassic Library(more than 1000 works) Ultimate BibleStudy Suite(8 volumes, 1 Million + Links) Click here to see Hundreds of titles available from Packard TechnologiesFrom the PublisherFrom the Editor's Introduction: To the extent that Robert W. Chambers (1865-1933) is remembered at all today, it is for "The King in Yellow", an odd collection of supernatural and "French" stories first published in 1895. It was followed by a few science-fiction comedies which are still reprinted from time to time, and then by dozens of popular historical romances and "society" novels, now long out of print and apparently unlamented. That he was originally an artist and friend of the famous Charles Dana Gibson is now mostly forgotten; knowing this, the reader can guess that Chambers was an art student in the Latin Quarter and attended the schools mentioned in his stories. For his weird tales, Chambers took some names from Ambrose Bierce, and his own stories were later mined by H. P. Lovecraft and the pulp magazine writers of his circle. Such usage has kept "The King in Yellow", if not alive, then at least in the awareness of readers of the fantasy and horror genre. For all I know, the references have now spread to board games, rock music albums and cult television programs. Like other readers of such literature, when I was young I enjoyed the supernatural stories in the first half of the book, but tended to skip over the tales of the artists' life in Paris in the second half. Indeed, several editions have omitted these stories entirely, substituting others more likely to appeal to the fantasy reader. However, as I grow older, the French stories appeal to me more and more. I am grateful for even a small glimpse into the author's youth in another time and place, now long gone. As an aside: the characters of these stories first appeared in Chambers' first book, "In the Quarter", which appeared in 1894. What is "The King in Yellow" about? ("There are so many things which are impossible to explain"). The title refers to a book within our book, actually to a play in two acts, and to a supernatural character within that play who we suspect also exists outside of it. We know very little of the contents of the play, but discover that it drives the reader insane and damns his soul. Yet the book is said to be beautiful, expressing the "supreme note of art". As such, the device is a perfect one for the Decadent time in which it was created, suggesting the flowers of evil, the admixture of life and decay, beauty and malevolence. As we move into the French stories, the supernatural elements fade away. We still have the themes of the danger of too much knowledge, and of innocence threatened and protected. The stories are loosely connected but not presented in any sort of chronological order. In fact, the first, "The Repairer of Reputations", is set in the future of 1920, and one of the later stories, "The Street of the First Shell", is a realistic account of the siege of Paris in 1870. Did Chambers have a reason for arranging the book in this way? Perhaps he wanted to introduce some distance from the locus of horror, showing how evil ripples out from a center, never entirely vanishing, but diminishing and being conquered by love. As dark as his vision may be, hope and love are never absent. A reader is allowed his favorites. I have two: "The Mask" features a striking combination of hope and the intimation of transcendence, set against the sinister background of Chambers'

mythology. It is the most Catholic of his stories, a strain that runs through many of them. And, at six pages, "The Street of the Four Winds" is one of the most perfect short stories I know. About the Author Robert W. Chambers (1865-1933) was an illustrator, novelist, and short story writer. His most famous effort, *The King in Yellow*, is regarded as one of the most important works of American supernatural fiction. He also wrote historical fiction, several bestselling romance novels, and war and adventure stories.