



The Thief's Journal (Genet, Jean)

By Jean Genet

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“The most beautiful book that Genet has written.” —Jean-Paul Sartre

The Thief's Journal is perhaps Jean Genet's most authentically biographical novel, personifying his quest for spiritual glory through the pursuit of evil. Writing in the intensely lyrical prose style that is his trademark, the man Jean Cocteau dubbed France's "Black Prince of Letters" here reconstructs his early adult years—time he spent as a petty criminal and vagabond, traveling through Spain and Antwerp, occasionally border hopping across the rest of Europe, always one step ahead of the authorities

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The Thief's Journal (Genet, Jean) By Jean Genet Bibliography

- Rank: #152369 in eBooks
- Published on: 1994-02-02
- Released on: 1994-02-02
- Format: Kindle eBook

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Editorial Review

Language Notes

Text: English, French (translation)

From the Back Cover

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About the Author

Jean Genet was born in Paris in 1910. An illegitimate child who never knew his parents, he was abandoned to the Public Assistance Authorities. He was ten when he was sent to a reformatory for stealing; thereafter he spent time in the prisons of nearly every country he visited in thirty years of prowling through the European underworld. With ten convictions for theft in France to his credit he was, the eleventh time, condemned to life imprisonment. Eventually he was granted a pardon by President Auriol as a result of appeals from France's leading artists and writers led by Jean Cocteau. \$\$\$His first novel, *Our Lady of the Flowers*, was written while he was in prison, followed by *Miracle of the Rose*, the autobiographical *The Thief's Journal*, *Querelle of Brest* and *Funeral Rites*. He wrote six plays: *The Balcony*, *The Blacks*, *The Screens*, *The Maids*, *Deathwatch* and *Splendid's* (the manuscript of which was rediscovered only in 1993). Jean Genet died in 1986.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Richard Benson:

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