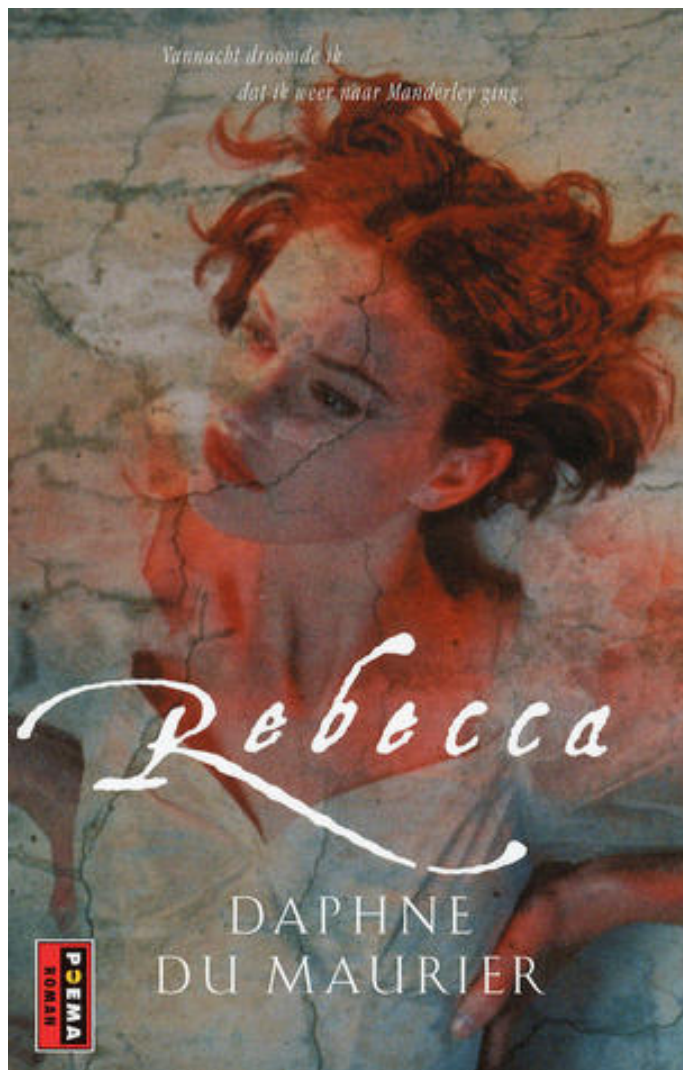

Daphne du Maurier

Rebecca



Title: Rebecca

Author: Daphne du Maurier

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Description

Na de dood van zijn vrouw Rebecca zoekt Maxim de Winter rust en vergetelheid in Monte Carlo. Daar ontmoet hij de verlegen, jonge gezelschapsdame van een rijke Amerikaanse. Ze trouwen en Maxim neemt haar mee naar Engeland, naar zijn landgoed Manderley.

Al snel wordt haar door de onverzoenlijke huishoudster duidelijk gemaakt dat zij niet de kwaliteiten heeft die de eerste mevrouw De Winter bezat. Dagelijks voelt zij de schim van het verleden in en rond Manderley rondwaren...

Insightful reviews

Rose: **Initial reaction:** loved this book even years after reading it for the first time. I think Daphne du Maurier had such a strong construction with respect to the characters, sense of place, foreboding atmosphere, and symbolic texture of this entire narrative. Beautifully written.

Full review:

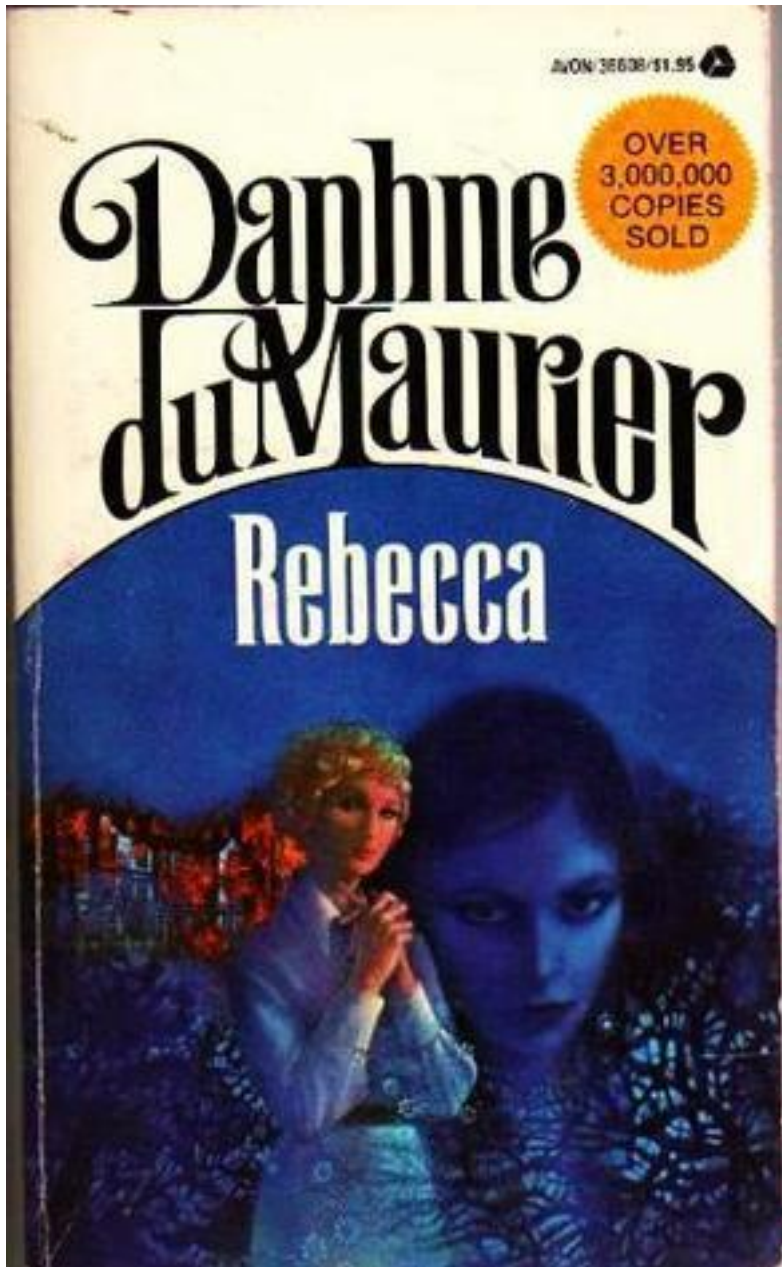
*"They make fools of us together
But we always think of them
All their laughing and their talking and their wasting of our time
And it always hurts to see them now
That everything is different
We don't like to see their eyes cause they will never look the same."*

-Lyrics from "Horror Show" by The Birthday Massacre

Citing part of these lyrics because they were running through my head thematically as I penned this review. Seems appropriate considering this is a gothic novel. =)

Writing this review on one of my all-time favorite novels is a bit intimidating because there aren't enough proper words for me to convey how much I loved Daphne du Maurier's "Rebecca." This is a deliciously dark gothic novel with wonderfully flawed, developed characters in scenarios that are equal parts harrowing, intriguing, and frustrating. I always say that the books that I end up loving are ones that leave me thinking long after I've turned the final page, as well as those that blend quite a mixture of different elements within them. This is, in parts, a mystery, suspense, and darker romance, with qualities that are atmospheric, foreboding, and contemplative.

I first read "Rebecca" at the age of 14 - as part of a mandatory book review assignment for my 9th grade Advanced English class. I didn't really have a large selection of books to choose from, and "Rebecca" seemed one of the most intriguing to me from the blurb. I picked it up from the school library the very next day after the assignment was given. The only available copy of the book was worn thin, the pages almost falling out from where it had been read so much. It was the old Avon edition that had this cover:



Writing the book report was another matter, but I loved the experience of reading "Rebecca" for the first time - for its characters, for even the suspense it kept me holding onto. Just when you think things might get easier for Maxim and the new Mrs. De Winter, it more frequently fell apart than not.

I've read this novel multiple times since, but I think this is the first time I've fully read the work in about ten years. I'm going to approach this from my own interpretations and perspective, but there's a very nice afterword in the Little Brown and Company edition that explains the background in which du Maurier wrote "Rebecca," the thematic and symbolism of the novel, among a few other interesting tidbits.

Let's start with the characters. What an exceptional, yet flawed cast of complex characters. The reader finds themselves following the heroine of this novel from one point to the next, and part

of the intrigue lies in her identity, or lack thereof. Some call her "nameless", some call her "me", some call her the "second Mrs. De Winter" or simply "Mrs. De Winter." I'm going to refer to her as "Mrs. De Winter" for this review. She's a deeply flawed character. Sometimes you may want to throw the book at her because she tends to be submissive more often than not, not so much asserting herself where she needs to. And you could argue that "Mrs. De Winter never really comes to have her own identity during the course of events in "Rebecca". Rather, there are points where it seems like she comes into her own, grows from the experiences she endures, but yet regresses in places as the wife of Maxim De Winter and learning all the secrets that Manderley has to hold.

She starts the novel as a naïve assistant to a rather brazen, self-centered woman. This changes when the ladies meet Maxim De Winter. Maxim is, in himself, a complicated, troubled gentleman with a brooding, sometimes temperamental presence. The heroine isn't exactly sure why, especially when the mention of Manderley seems to take him from being a charming person to one who's notably haunted. Still, the two end up enjoying each others company. By scheme of events, Mrs. De Winter ends up impulsively marrying Maxim (even if he's in his 40s and could well be a father figure to her. He reminds her as much when talking about her "innocence.").

When the two end up returning to Manderley after their honeymoon, Mrs. De Winter has all the joy of a blushing bride approaching her new life in something she can claim as her own along with her husband. But the life she imagines and gushes over is not the one waiting for her at Manderley. It'd be one thing if it were just the routine and formalities that await her, but the people and environment of Manderley is weighed down by the memory of one single unforgettable woman.

Rebecca.

Everything from the slanted curves of her writing to her noted tragic demise - Rebecca's presence is felt in every corner, even among the staff so loyal to her (especially one very obsessed Mrs. Danvers, who isn't happy with Maxim's replacement wife.) Mrs. De Winter realizes she has shoes to fill. It is frustrating in turns to see how the heroine submits to keeping everything the same and withdrawal from asserting herself, but I was fascinated by the intricate power plays that this novel showcased with Mrs. De Winter, internal and external for her part. She struggles to assert herself out of Rebecca's shadow, but more often than not - she's plagued with her own personal demons of gossip as well as chatter and expectation from people who consider her less than Rebecca. And more often than not, she earns ire for what she doesn't know about Rebecca and Maxim's respective past. Each time she pushes, though, it seems to drive Maxim further away.

Mrs. De Winter finds comrades in Beatrice (Bee, who is Maxim's honest sister - I loved her) and Frank, Maxim's closest friend - who seems to know more than he lets on at times.

There are some striking twists in this novel that are so well plotted and jarring that even upon this re-read, it still strikes me with the same eeriness and power it had in the first time I read the novel. I won't say more to spoil the experience, but the web weaves much deeper than anything Mrs. De Winter imagined, and while it pulls her closer to Maxim once she learns the

truth of things, it also threatens to unravel her as well.

An all time favorite of mine, notably a classic for good reason, and highly recommended.

Overall score: 5/5 stars

Note: I received this as an ARC from NetGalley, from the publisher Little Brown and Company.

Lora: *Rebecca* is a classic tale that weaves mystery, secrets, and romance into an intricate and stunning twine. It tells the story of a young girl who is swept off her feet by a much older man with money and possessions aplenty — and even more heartache in his recent past.

Since his wife's tragic death eight months ago, Maxim de Winter has been doing everything he can to forget the horrific part of his past that has left him feeling bereft of happiness and aloof from others.

But even with this kind of emotional baggage, the young heroine of the story — who's name is never revealed — still agrees to marry Mr. de Winter because she has already fallen in love with him.

When our heroine moves into Manderley, the estate where Maxim lived not so long ago with his now deceased wife, Rebecca, she soon learns the story behind her new husband's late wife's death. She learns that Rebecca died by an accidental drowning while in a boat that capsized. As you can image, all of this is very disconcerting to such a young and naïve girl. And when she arrives at Manderley things are so very different from the life she had before: there's all the hustle and bustle of living in a mansion, and then there's Mrs. Danvers who doesn't like her simply because she's not Rebecca.

Du Maurier's *Rebecca* deals with a lot of themes and raises a lot of questions, one of the most intriguing being, *What happens when the woman that is haunting your husband begins haunting you, too?*

For me, *Rebecca* was truly a delight. It is expertly crafted and beautifully written, and, while reading, I had one of those strange feelings you get when you think you're enjoying something too much, that you must be sinning because you simply *can't* remember the last time you enjoyed yourself so much.

What I'm about to say isn't going to juxtapose well with my earlier comment about this being a "delight," but I shall say it anyway: This book has just a *little bit* of a depressing atmosphere to it. This is mostly because the main character is often fixated on how she'll never live up to the standards which Rebecca set before her, but it didn't bother me in the least. No, no — in fact, it only made me want to wrap the heroine in a blanket and give her a cup of hot cocoa. Some may deem her weak for not simply standing up and being everything that she can be, but I saw her as worthy of so much and strong even in her cowardice. She starts out working for a nuisance of a woman, then all of a sudden she is married to a man much older than she and with a past for which she is unsure of all the details. I really loved the heroine in this; there were several times where my heart twisted for her character and for the situation she was in.

Do **NOT** read this spoiler if you've not read this book. It is the type of spoiler that will drastically take away from your enjoyment should you choose to ever read this. ([view spoiler](#))

The fact of the lead character's name never being revealed is just one of the peculiar things about this story. It is said early on that her name is often spelt incorrectly, making the reader think that it is perhaps a very unique name. My guess as to why this is is that, because the name **Rebecca**— and the person — is still so very dominant in the lives of the characters and in our heroine's mind, the author chose to leave out her name to add to the sense of inferiority the heroine feels towards Manderley's former mistress. Just a guess.

FAVORITE QUOTE: *"I don't want you to bear this alone," I said. "I want to share it with you. I've grown up, Maxim, in twenty-four hours. I'll never be a child again."*

Upon closing this review I want to be very clear about something: My enthusiasm and enjoyment of this novel doesn't necessarily mean that you, the reader of this review, will feel the same about this book. *Rebecca* is very dramatic and people that don't like classics may not find as much enjoyment in it as I have. I'll freely admit that I have a penchant for things/books like this, so I'm guessing that had a lot to do with my loving this so very much. But if you're interested in this in the least, if you think this may be something you'd like, please, give it a try.

Florence (Lefty) MacIntosh: The author's dark twist of mystery & suspense adds depth & substance to what is really just a rehash of the classic Cinderella story. I was immediately hooked by the opening line "Last night I dreamt I went to Manderley again" then swept into one of the most enchanting descriptive passages I've ever read, a dream-walk through the manor's overgrown and abandoned garden. "The beeches with white, naked limbs leant close to one another; their branches intermingled in a strange embrace. A lilac had mated with a copper beech, and to bind them yet more closely to one another the malevolent ivy, always an enemy to grace, had thrown her tendrils about the pair and made them prisoners"

The characters are rich and memorable; it's a great mystery unraveled with perfect pace. You have thwarted love, tons of unresolved conflict and obstacles to overcome. My only criticism was the costume ball dress scene which I felt too contrived and obvious, I've excused this as a necessary plot device.

Where 'Rebecca' truly shines is in its deserved reputation as one of the greatest suspense novels ever written. With more subtlety & finesse than a 'thriller', suspense attempts to keep you feeling uncertain and 'on-edge', anxious because of a future vaguely obscured. In writing *Rebecca*, Daphne du Maurier has mastered the genre. It's pure magic.

Joe Valdez: i will not keep in mind what possessed me to bump Daphne du Maurier's 1938 Gothic secret thus far up my interpreting list. *Rebecca* was once the resource fabric for the Academy Award successful top photo of 1940, directed by means of Alfred Hitchcock and starring Joan Fontaine & Laurence Olivier, a movie I bear in mind being visually beautiful yet very un-Hitchcockian in its plot development. It had extra in universal with long gone *With the Wind* than *Strangers on a Train*. My urge to provide extra girl authors a decent learn and to

discover whatever to write down gleaming reports approximately received out. Judging through this novel, I could not be an extra ardent fan of du Maurier's. Rebecca starts with a sentence that is as hermetic because it is intoxicating: "Last evening I dreamt I went to Manderley again." the tale is the first-person account of a naive and unsophisticated woman who, within the first of a number of daring strikes by means of the author, is rarely published through her Christian name, simply later as "Mrs. de Winter" or "the moment Mrs. de Winter". She's an escort for an obnoxious American lady touring in Monte Carlo. The girl's service provider attaches herself to any lodge visitor she acknowledges from the society pages and makes a sufferer of an English widower named Maximilian de Winter, inheritor to an property within the West nation often called Manderley, a place, every body agrees, of dreams. Though two times her age, de Winter is as attracted to the girl's innocence as she is his gentleness and experience. no longer many afternoons in Monte Carlo move among the time he allows her to name him "Maxim" and he bargains to take her clear of her dreadful organization by way of changing into his wife. The couple go back to Manderley, the place Mrs. de Winter's weather is beaten through the home with its unoccupied rooms, its employees prepared to cater to her each desire and acquaintances soliciting for a social call. She instantly feels the scorn of housekeeper Mrs. Danvers, a chilly hearted woman who she is sure intends to ruin her. Rebecca is a ghost tale within which no visitations from past the grave occur. the second one Mrs. de Winter's weather is haunted by means of her predecessor, a mix of beauty, brains and breeding who drowned in a boating twist of fate yet lives in each furnishings association and within the eyes of every body she meets at Manderley. Mrs. Danvers does rank as one of many nice antagonists of literature, her conflict of wills with the second one Mrs. de Winter as one-sided as a cat fidgeting with a mouse, however it is Rebecca who proves to be the strength threatening the couple. I used to be shocked to discover myself rooting for the protagonists to conquer Rebecca and dwell fortunately ever after. stunning how nice writing can decrease me to a 16-year-old girl. Du Maurier has an excellent ear for discussion and propels the tale ahead utilizing loads of it, which I regularly imagine is great. Her prose is as intoxicating because it is concise, detailing the landscapes and rooms her characters go through with lush self assurance and with out turning the ebook right into a furnishings catalog. Manderley is predicated on a Cornwall property referred to as Menabilly that du Maurier turned obsessed with, yet rather than writing a historical past of the property or the relics who lived there, she makes a speciality of a brand new arrival, a rube who needs to move muster and triumph over her worry of the home or danger being pushed out and destroyed by way of it. I beloved that. I additionally cherished how du Maurier does not strength a traditional whodunit at the reader. Mrs. de Winter's weather does not assert herself into the tale up to a latest heroine might. The plot materializes round her in a really effecting way. Her motivation is to make her marriage paintings and hold her husband happy. If she fails, she hazards going again into the realm the place she has fewer possibilities to survive. as well as analyzing what extra marriages have been like sooner than women's lib, this element to the tale increased the strain supremely well. I will be raising extra of du Maurier's fiction to the pinnacle of my examining list.

Jessica: caution - this assessment unearths plot details! First issues first - the reproduction that I ordered from Amazon has the glance of 1 of these reasonable \$6 books you will get on the grocery store. It was once simply \$7.99, and front conceal of the e-book is photograph of pink silk with the name, "Rebecca" in gold scripted font, so I suppose it truly is a kind of reasonably cheap supermarket books. I used to be prepared for an outstanding smut novel, because it absolutely had the look...I used to be having flashbacks to VC Andrews! when it comes to the

particular book, I learn in approximately three days. I discovered the most personality to be beautiful annoying, she is SO INSECURE. There have been a number of instances I discovered myself skimming via her senseless narrative of considering to herself. What I did locate fascinating (plot spoiler coming) was once while the tale printed how her husband actually felt approximately his deceased wife. This new info completely replaced the most character's opinion of her position in her husband's lifestyles and their household. That was once lovely fascinating, and this sort of reliable instance of ways we, which means people, can restrict ourselves by way of our belief of the way humans think approximately us, and the way we **think** we slot in the world. The complete take care of the white gown on the ball was once awfully predictable, I am definite every person who learn this e-book observed that coming once Mrs. Davners made the suggestion. There have been a number of extra twists and turns after the ball, and I am certain that the author's rationale was once to surprise and throw the reader for a loop. Unfortunately, it didn't have that sort of influence on me. Regardless of this total ho-hum review, I did learn the publication beautiful quickly, and it was once great that it wasn't a ebook that had lots aspect that may require loads of concentration. Might I like to recommend it to other? Um, no. Could I re-read it down the road? Um, no. Will I throw away the book? No, I purely do this with books I totally hate (see my evaluation for "The gorgeous Bones"). My reproduction of "Rebecca" is headed for the Goodwill bag...I don't believe Powell's will wish it.

Jo: "Sometimes I ponder if she comes again right here to Manderley and watches you and Mr de iciness together..." Holy moly. The place to start? Well, it is most likely most sensible to indicate that Rebecca is the simplest publication to learn on a dark, murky dismal day in a room with a roaring open fireplace and a sheepskin rug with photos of lengthy useless family lining the walls. However, as a result of unforeseen conditions (I was..um.. not able to maneuver to a secluded mansion within the South with open roaring fireplace and graphics of useless kinfolk members); I needed to make do with a newly embellished room with draughty home windows in a home on a reasonably new property in higher Manchester. But it was once nonetheless the right learn over the Halloween period. This is among the simply books (besides any Edith Wharton novel) that I opened figuring out that I'd love. It have been prompt to my ally who used to be a bit stunned that I hadn't learn it before. "B-but it really is ideal for you. Dark, twisty, packed with intrigue.. Oh and there is a brooding guy that I do not fancy""A brooding guy that you simply do not fancy? So.. I assume I'll then?""Yes, you actually will. You want to learn it instantly and repair order within the world.""This dialog did not really take place simply because we now not reside together, yet I admire to imagine if we did, this may were precisely what used to be said. And... she may have be so right. Not on account that Newland Archer have I been thoroughly besotted through a fictional fittie. In particular while she instructed me that Lawrence Olivier portrayed him in Hitchcock's version. Any man who would not be misplaced in a state of affairs "where males walked cloaked at night, and stood within the shadow of outdated doorways, a previous of slender stairways and dim dungeons, a previous of whispers within the dark, of shimmering, rapier blades, of silent, exquisite courtesy" is fine with me. But as I endured to learn on and located out the twist (Even even though it used to be released over 70 years ago, I did not be aware of what the twisteroony was) I textual content stated ally and was once like 'Oh in fact I fancy this guy.'. She laughed, or no less than she responded 'hahaha' through textual message. But anyway, I digress. This publication is the suitable mix of darkness, secret and complicated descriptions that set the scene perfectly. The best way characters are defined virtually makes you sounds like you're one of many anonymous servants creeping during the

corridors of, perhaps, the main recognized literary residence on the grounds that Pemberley-Manderley. just like the servants; the unnamed narrator helps you to in at the undeniable fact that whatever unusual goes on... yet she's not likely to inform you. you need to stay up for three hundred pages or so until eventually you discover out what really occurred to the mysterious ex-wife, Rebecca. The again of my reproduction states: "Not in view that Jane Eyre has a heroine confronted such trouble with the opposite Woman". And this is often among the finest understatement of the world, other than probably the outline of Mrs Danvers, the housekeeper, as "forbidding". simply the outline of Mrs Danvers and our narrator in Rebecca's outdated room is sufficient to ship shivers down your backbone and quicken you step somewhat as you pass the touchdown to the bathroom. it truly is great to learn a vintage novel the place our girls will not be simpering girls merely fascinated about marriage and status. all the girls during this novel have a few literary meat at the bones and that i love it. Down with the cookie-cutter ladies in novels! When I opened it, I knew i used to be going to like it, and that i wasn't disappointed. a real vintage secret with the simply the correct amount of suspense and horror (seriously, the bit within the bed room and the twitching of the curtains... was once it simply me?!). completely advised to somebody who likes their classics with a touch of twisty turns. Also- I constantly purchase moment hand books; i admire to grasp that they've been learn and flicked via before. the single books i purchase new are ones that are not on hand moment hand or are ridiculously expensive. Anyway; my version of Rebecca got here with a prepared made review. Written at the name web page of my replica is written "Book Club- April 2009. Excellent! far better than it appears, not only a Gothic Romance, marvelous!". The note "marvelous" is underlined. i don't believe i want clarify extra why I like to purchase moment hand books. And only one extra thing. Seeing because it used to be Halloween, i made a decision it was once time to crack out the previous Hitchcock boxset (which unfortunatley does not comprise Rebecca yet i'm going to certainly fee it out) so think my shock whilst i used to be observing The Birds (read: absolutley crapping myself, forgot how terrifying the movie used to be so that you could steer clear of the horror I surreptitiously went on imdb.com to discover if there has been any attention-grabbing evidence seems there was!) and that i figured out that the movie was once in keeping with a quick tale through the single and in simple terms Mrs Du Maurier. I additionally discovered it was once form of a real tale and that i clicked off the window, slowly obtained less than the covers and wept silently to myself.

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