



The Devils of Loudun

By Aldous Huxley



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— *Washington Post Book World*

Aldous Huxley's "brilliant" (*Los Angeles Times*) and gripping account of one of the strangest occurrences in history, hailed as the "peak achievement of Huxley's career" by the *New York Times*

In 1632 an entire convent in the small French village of Loudun was apparently possessed by the devil. After a sensational and celebrated trial, the convent's charismatic priest Urban Grandier—accused of spiritually and sexually seducing the nuns in his charge—was convicted of being in league with Satan. Then he was burned at the stake for witchcraft.

A remarkable true story of religious and sexual obsession, *The Devils of Loudun* is considered by many to be Aldous Huxley's nonfiction masterpiece.

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Editorial Review

Review

"Huxley has reconstructed with skill, learning and horror one of the most appalling incidents in the history of witch-hunting during its seventeenth-century heyday. The Devils of Loudun is fascinating, erudite, and instinct with intellectual vitality" Times Literary Supplement "Huxley's analysis of motive, his exposition of the unconscious causes of behaviour, his exposure of the perversions to which religious emotion is subject, his discursions on the witch cult, on mass hysteria, on sexual eccentricity have the brilliance that all his writing has had from the very beginning" Spectator "One of Huxley's best books" Guardian "His masterpiece, and perhaps the most enjoyable book about spirituality ever written. In telling the grotesque, bawdy and true story of a 17th-century convent of cloistered French nuns who contrived to have a priest they never met burned alive ...Huxley painlessly conveys a wealth of information about mysticism and the unconscious" Washington Post

From the Back Cover

Aldous Huxley's acclaimed and gripping account of one of the strangest occurrences in history

In 1632 an entire convent in the small French village of Loudun was apparently possessed by the devil. After a sensational and celebrated trial, the convent's charismatic priest Urban Grandier—accused of spiritually and sexually seducing the nuns in his charge—was convicted of being in league with Satan. Then he was burned at the stake for witchcraft.

In this classic work by the legendary Aldous Huxley—a remarkable true story of religious and sexual obsession considered by many to be his nonfiction masterpiece—a compelling historical event is clarified and brought to vivid life.

About the Author

Aldous Huxley was born on 26th July 1894 near Godalming, Surrey. He began writing poetry and short stories in his early twenties, but it was his first novel, 'Crome Yellow' (1921), which established his literary reputation. This was swiftly followed by 'Antic Hay' (1923), 'Those Barren Leaves' (1925) and 'Point Counter Point' (1928) - bright, brilliant satires in which Huxley wittily but ruthlessly passed judgement on the shortcomings of contemporary society. For most of the 1920s Huxley lived in Italy and an account of his experiences there can be found in 'Along The Road' (1925). The great novels of ideas, including his most famous work 'Brave New World' (published in 1932 this warned against the dehumanising aspects of scientific and material 'progress') and the pacifist novel 'Eyeless in Gaza' (1936) were accompanied by a series of wise and brilliant essays, collected in volume form under titles such as 'Music at Night' (1931) and 'Ends and Means' (1937). In 1937, at the height of his fame, Huxley left Europe to live in California, working for a time as a screenwriter in Hollywood. As the West braced itself for war, Huxley came increasingly to believe that the key to solving the world's problems lay in changing the individual through mystical enlightenment. The exploration of the inner life through mysticism and hallucinogenic drugs was to dominate his work for the rest of his life. His beliefs found expression in both fiction ('Time Must Have a Stop', 1944 and 'Island', 1962) and non-fiction ('The Perennial Philosophy', 1945, 'Grey Eminence', 1941 and the famous account of his first mescaline experience, 'The Doors of Perception', 1954. Huxley died in California on 22nd November 1963.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Bernadine Williams:

The book The Devils of Loudun make one feel enjoy for your spare time. You can use to make your capable much more increase. Book can for being your best friend when you getting stress or having big problem along with your subject. If you can make looking at a book The Devils of Loudun to get your habit, you can get considerably more advantages, like add your current capable, increase your knowledge about some or all subjects. You could know everything if you like open and read a guide The Devils of Loudun. Kinds of book are several. It means that, science e-book or encyclopedia or others. So , how do you think about this publication?

Freddy Lamberth:

With this era which is the greater man or who has ability in doing something more are more treasured than other. Do you want to become among it? It is just simple way to have that. What you must do is just spending your time very little but quite enough to possess a look at some books. One of many books in the top record in your reading list is The Devils of Loudun. This book which can be qualified as The Hungry Mountains can get you closer in getting precious person. By looking up and review this guide you can get many advantages.

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