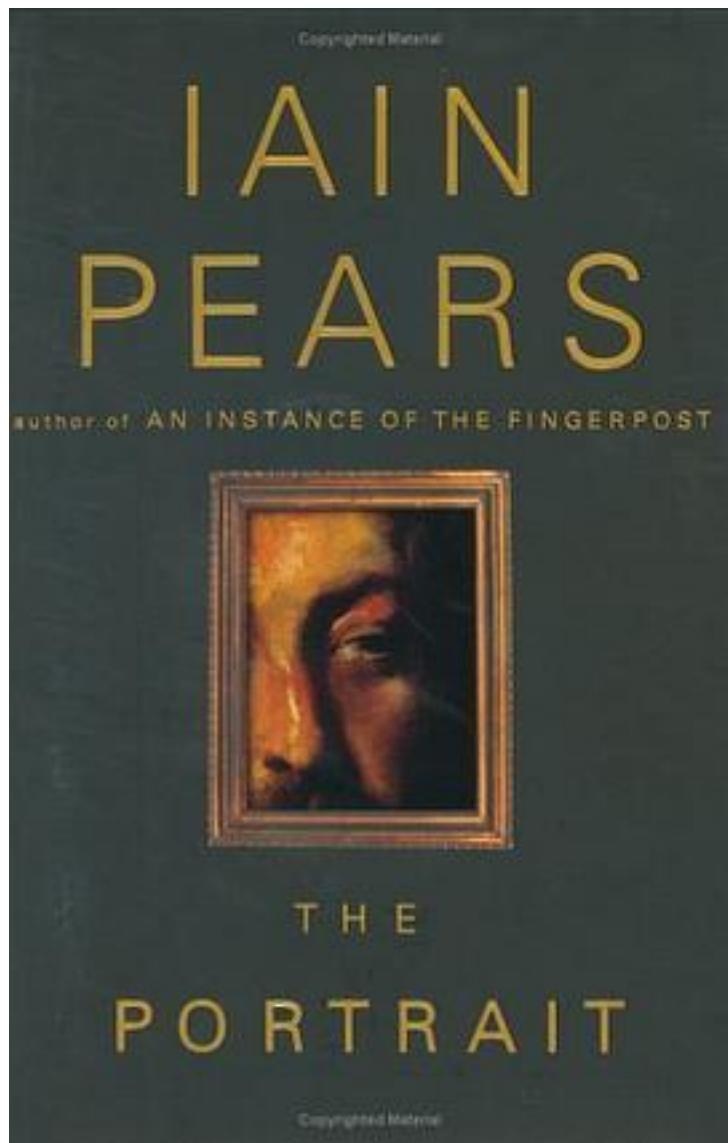


The Portrait



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出版者:Harper Perennial

出版时间:2005-7

装帧:Paperback

isbn:9780007202775

A dark and disturbing novel of suspense, set at the turn of the 20th century, by the bestselling author of *An Instance of the Fingerpost*. The windswept isle of Houat, off the coast of Brittany, is no picturesque artists' colony. At the turn of the twentieth century, life is harsh and rustic. So why did Henry MacAlpine forsake London -- where he had been feted by critics and gallery owners, his works exhibited alongside the likes of Cezanne and Van Gogh -- to make his home in this remote outpost? The truth begins to emerge when, four years into his exile, MacAlpine receives his first visitor. Influential art critic William Naysmith has come to the island to sit for a portrait. Over the course of the sitting, the power balance between the two men shifts dramatically as the critic whose pen could anoint or destroy careers becomes a passive subject. And as the painter struggles to capture Nasmith's true character on canvas, a story unfolds -- one of betrayal, hypocrisy, forbidden love, suicide and ultimately murder. *The Portrait* is a darkly atmospheric, psychologically complex, macabre and chilling novel from a master storyteller.

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评论

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书评

好多年没看过这种独白体的小说了。确切的说，不是独白，而是对话中画家这一方的语言及内心的记录，而坐在他对面的是位艺术批评家，把他请来，叫到他移居多年的海上，给他画肖像，画了好几天，画的同时，就跟他聊这么多年来，他做了什么，想了

什么，以及他们都熟悉的一些人...

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