

The Journals



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著者:Fowles, John/ Drazin, Charles

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From Publishers Weekly The author of *The French Lieutenant's Woman* had a conventional upper-middle-class English background and Oxford education. This volume of Fowles's (b. 1926) journals opens as he finishes his last year at college with few plans for his vocation as a writer but a great sense of himself. The journals are, in many respects, more about the latter than the former. Fowles's intense examination of his own character, moods and thoughts gets punctured only by new places and exceptional people. His time as a schoolteacher in France and later Greece brings out the best in his entries. On the isle of Spetsai, which later inspired the bestseller *The Magus*, Fowles is enthralled by its landscape and inhabitants, and becomes entangled in a love triangle with Elizabeth Christy, the wife of a fellow teacher. Returning to London, he elopes with her, finds a position teaching at a secretarial college and labors on various literary projects. The success of his first novel, *The Collector* (1963), makes little private difference to Fowles; his collaboration with Hollywood on movie adaptations and socializing with literary lions like John Bayley and Iris Murdoch prove less important to him than being able to escape London and move to Lyme Regis, where he would write his most famous novel and continue his voluminous, meticulous journals. 16 pages of b&w photos. (May 5) From Booklist Starred Review John Fowles' fiction, especially *The Magus* and *The French*

Lieutenant's Woman, continue to enthrall readers, but it's been 20 years since his last novel. This long absence makes the revelation of his practice of keeping remarkably detailed, analytical journals all the more arresting. As the first of two volumes makes clear, journal writing is just as compelling to Fowles as fiction, and readers will feel the same, given Fowles' candor and discernment as he describes his literary convictions, the people he meets, the books he reads, the poverty he endures, and his experiences at Oxford, in France, on the Greek island of Spetai, and in London. Fowles wrote under the radar until he turned 37, in 1962, and his first novel, The Collector, made him a celebrity. As fascinating as the story of his evolution as a writer is, it's the epic story of his thwarted love for a married woman that renders his journals incandescent. Fowles suggests that this masterfully edited volume "might best be thought of as another novel," yet it is all the more astonishing in its preservation and transmuting of real life. Donna SeamanCopyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved See all Editorial Reviews

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