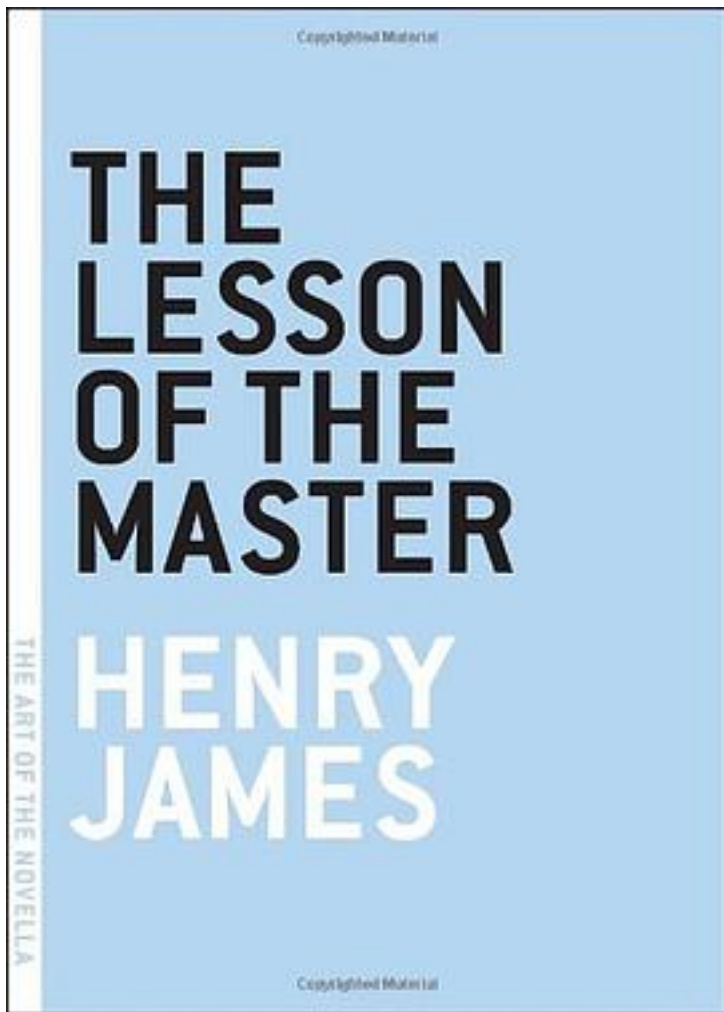


The Lesson of the Master



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著者:Henry James

出版者:Melville House

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"You know as well as you sit there that you'd put a pistol-ball into your brain if you had

written my books!"

Exemplifying Henry James's famous belief that "Art makes life," *The Lesson of the Master* is a piercing study of the life that art makes. When the tale's protagonist—a gifted young writer—meets and befriends a famous author he has long idolized, he is both repelled by and attracted to the artist's great secret: the emotional costs of a life dedicated to art.

With extraordinary psychological insight and devastating wit, the novella asks the question of whether art is, ultimately, demeaning or ennobling for the artist, while capturing the ambiguities of a life devoted to art, and the choices artists must make. The expatriate James knew these choices well by the time he published the novella in the *Universal Review* in 1888, and the work reveals him at the height of his powers.

The Art of The Novella Series

Too short to be a novel, too long to be a short story, the novella is generally unrecognized by academics and publishers. Nonetheless, it is a form beloved and practiced by literature's greatest writers. In the *Art Of The Novella* series, Melville House celebrates this renegade art form and its practitioners with titles that are, in many instances, presented in book form for the first time.

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标签

亨利·詹姆斯

中篇小说

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Henry-James

评论

小说里的“大师”——也正是后来James在文坛中的地位——劝导万分敬仰他的年轻作者Paul：要想取得艺术上的完美，必须远离生活的羁绊，婚姻、子女、金钱都是创作的陷阱而非灵感和动力。Paul谨尊大师的教诲，到海外闭关写书两年，回国后却遭遇啼笑皆非的结局。那么完美艺术和俗世生活只能二选一吗？大师的建议似乎忽略了一个艺术家养成过程中必定、必须经历的曲折，用Ozick的话说，创作者应该“never to look toward the admirable and dazzling end... but instead to seek to be young while young, primitive while primitive, ungainly when ungainly”。

呵呵。。。

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书评

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