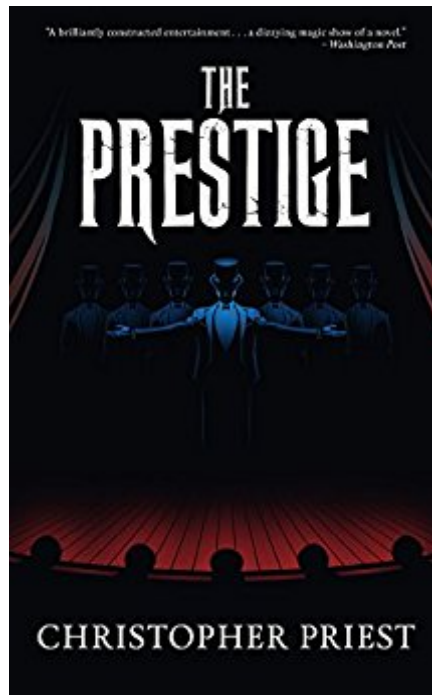




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The Prestige (Valancourt 20th Century Classics)



Synopsis

In the smoke-and-mirrors world of Victorian music halls, two talented young stage magicians vie to be known as the best illusionist in London. Each of them performs a masterful and seemingly impossible illusion, and each is determined to unravel the secret of his rival's trick at any cost. But what starts out as professional jealousy soon escalates into a bitter and deadly obsession whose terrible consequences will still be felt a century later by their descendants, who have their own surprising reasons for wanting to discover the truth. One of Christopher Priest's most acclaimed works and winner of both the James Tait Black Memorial Prize and the World Fantasy Award, *The Prestige* is an ingeniously constructed entertainment, a masterpiece of misdirection where nothing is what it seems. Readers who have seen the 2006 film adaptation directed by Christopher Nolan will find that though the book shares many similarities with the movie, it also contains many surprises, as well as a chilling ending that the reader will never see coming. Christopher Priest's classic novel *The Affirmation* is also available from Valancourt Books, and his *The Space Machine*, *A Dream of Wessex*, and *The Separation* are all forthcoming from Valancourt.

“A taut, twisting, prize-winning story of two magicians and their fin-de-siècle rivalry that taints successive generations of their respective families. Electrifying effects and a deft handling of mysteries and their explanations (some remaining tantalizingly incomplete) in an unexpectedly compelling fusion of weird science and legerdemain.” — Kirkus Reviews

“Enthrallingly odd. A carefully calculated period style that is remarkably akin to that of the late Robertson Davies. Priest has brought it off with great imagination and skill.” — Publishers Weekly

“Lushly set in the velvet-cloaked, smoke-and-mirrors world of professional magic in turn-of-the-century London, this extraordinary novel interweaves the bitter rivalry and strange secrets of two magicians. The story is enormously complex yet like a dazzling magic act itself: a series of perfectly executed illusions that build in suspense and difficulty. The result is a surprise that marvelously satisfies the myriad genres that Priest has successfully managed to merge and transform in this eerie fictional sleight of hand.” — Entertainment Weekly

“*The Prestige* is a brilliantly constructed entertainment, with a plot as simple and intricate as a nest of Chinese boxes | a dizzying magic show of a novel, chock-a-block with all the props of Victorian sensation fiction.” — Washington Post

“It's an extraordinary performance, his best book in years, perhaps his best ever. Highly recommended.” — The New York Review of Science Fiction

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Customer Reviews

There are many similarities between the book and the movie, but it is difficult to compare the two. On the whole, they share a similar concept of feuding magicians, but are complete opposites in delivery and later plot elements. It is quite interesting to see opposing sides to different narratives, each one casting the light in a different direction, but the ending is simply atrocious. The reason I say that is because the book just ends, right when things are picking up pace and tension. It sounds odd saying that an ending can ruin the scenes that came before it, but, in this case, it left the book feeling inconsequential. As a reader, I just needed more closure.

If you're a fan of Simon Vance's narration as I am, you should get this audiobook. I first discovered Vance when listening to his reading of *The Ludwig Conspiracy* and I've been a fan ever since. If Simon Vance can't make a book interesting, it isn't worth listening to.

I love the movie, and wanted to experience the original story it was inspired by. I was blown away by the storytelling and how it's laid out. A bonus is it varies from the movie enough that it will keep you guessing even though you might know the secrets.

This is my second reading of the book. The first was long before the film was made and while they compliment each other, the book tells a similar but different story. A very enjoyable read

The movie The Prestige is by far my favorite movie. I decided to read the book to see how the two relate. I am glad to find that even if you have seen the movie, the book is still refreshing with elements in common and unique to each other. I am glad I read the book and would suggest that anyone who likes the movie to read the book as well.

AMAZING AMAZING AMAZING there's no words for me to describe it. I fell in love with the movie (watched it 5 times already) but the book is just unbelievable. I need to read it again. I feel like the movie should be three hours long to completely transform the beauty of the book. but then the movie has its own beauty too. This book has definitely become my favorite!!

Title is irrespective of what the book actually conveys. Fans of the movie will enjoy it; it's different enough (yet strangely similar enough) to present a great read. The dissimilarities from the movie make it a different story for sure, but said film's central twists are meaningless and inconsequential. I read with trepidation some reviews by others that suggested that the book was not worth reading. My response to that is "I read it in under 9 hours while still feeding, bathing, and putting a 4 and 5 year old to bed!" I couldn't put it down. If you loved the movie, you'll love the book even more.

Awesome story. Wonderfully narrated.

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