

this rough magic mary stewart

****This Rough Magic Mary Stewart: A Timeless Tale of Enchantment and Mystery****

this rough magic mary stewart stands out as one of the most captivating novels penned by the acclaimed British author Mary Stewart. Known for her masterful blending of romance, mystery, and historical elements, Stewart's work in **This Rough Magic** continues to enchant readers decades after its original publication. If you've ever been drawn to stories that combine the lush backdrop of exotic locations with intriguing characters and a touch of suspense, this novel is a must-read. Let's dive into what makes **This Rough Magic** such a beloved piece in Stewart's literary repertoire, exploring its themes, characters, and timeless appeal.

The Allure of Mary Stewart's Storytelling

Mary Stewart carved a unique niche for herself in the mid-20th century literary scene by pioneering what many call the "romantic suspense" genre. Her novels are not just about love or mystery; they are rich tapestries weaving together history, atmosphere, and complex human emotion. With her vivid descriptions and compelling narratives, Stewart invites readers into worlds where the past and present collide, and where danger and desire often go hand in hand.

In **This Rough Magic**, Stewart's storytelling prowess shines through in her ability to create an immersive setting, complex characters, and a plot that keeps you turning pages. The novel's title itself hints at the unpredictable and powerful forces—both natural and emotional—that drive the story forward.

Setting the Scene: The Magic of Corfu

One of the standout aspects of **This Rough Magic Mary Stewart** is its exotic setting. The novel is primarily set on the Greek island of Corfu, a location that plays a pivotal role in shaping the atmosphere and mood of the story. Stewart's detailed descriptions of the island's rugged coastline, azure waters, and historic landmarks transport readers straight into the heart of the Mediterranean.

A Vivid Backdrop That Enhances the Story

Corfu is not just a passive setting but an active character in the narrative. The island's natural beauty, combined with its ancient myths and legends, creates a sense of enchantment that perfectly complements the novel's themes. Stewart's writing captures the sensory experiences of Corfu—the scent of the sea, the warmth of the sun, the sounds of local wildlife—making the environment as captivating as the plot itself.

This sense of place adds layers of depth to the story, highlighting the contrast between the serene beauty of the island and the tension that unfolds among the characters. It's a reminder of how setting can elevate a novel from mere storytelling to a fully immersive experience.

Exploring the Plot: Mystery Meets Romance

At the heart of **This Rough Magic Mary Stewart** lies a gripping tale that effortlessly blends mystery, romance, and a touch of the supernatural. The story follows the protagonist, a Shakespearean scholar named Lucy Waring, who travels to Corfu to escape the pressures of her life and to immerse herself in her work.

Lucy Waring: A Strong, Relatable Heroine

Lucy is a quintessential Stewart heroine—intelligent, independent, and resourceful. Her passion for Shakespeare and her curiosity about the island's history set the stage for an adventure that quickly turns dangerous. As Lucy becomes entwined in a web of intrigue involving art smuggling and murder, her character grows stronger and more determined, making her journey both thrilling and inspiring.

The Intriguing Blend of Shakespeare and Suspense

One of the unique elements of **This Rough Magic** is how Stewart weaves Shakespeare's works into the plot. The novel's title is a nod to **The Tempest**, and the themes of magic, transformation, and chaos echo throughout the story. This literary motif adds richness to the narrative, inviting readers to appreciate the parallels between Shakespeare's plays and the unfolding drama on Corfu.

The suspenseful plot is peppered with twists and turns, keeping readers guessing until the very end. The combination of a well-crafted mystery with a blossoming romance makes for an engaging read that appeals to a wide audience.

Thematic Depth: Magic, Nature, and Human Emotion

Beyond its surface as a romantic thriller, **This Rough Magic Mary Stewart** delves into deeper themes that resonate on multiple levels. The interplay between magic and reality is a central motif, reflecting the unpredictable nature of life itself.

The Power of Nature

Throughout the novel, nature is portrayed as both beautiful and formidable. The sea, storms, and rugged landscape serve as metaphors for the characters' internal struggles and the uncontrollable forces shaping their destinies. Stewart's appreciation for the natural world is evident, and it adds a timeless quality to the story.

Human Connection and Transformation

At its core, the novel explores how individuals confront change, loss, and the unknown. The relationships that develop—whether romantic or platonic—highlight the importance of trust, courage, and resilience. The “rough magic” referenced in the title can be seen as the transformative power of life’s challenges, both harsh and wondrous.

Why **This Rough Magic** Mary Stewart Still Matters Today

Decades after its release, **This Rough Magic** remains a favorite among readers who appreciate a blend of literary romance and thrilling mystery. Its enduring popularity can be attributed to several factors:

- **Timeless Characters:** Lucy Waring and the supporting cast are multi-dimensional and relatable, embodying qualities that resonate across generations.
- **Evocative Setting:** The lush descriptions of Corfu continue to captivate readers’ imaginations and inspire travel to the Mediterranean.
- **Balanced Genre Elements:** The novel’s seamless integration of romance, suspense, and literary allusions offers something for every reader.
- **Atmospheric Writing:** Stewart’s poetic prose and atmospheric storytelling create an immersive reading experience.

Many contemporary authors cite Mary Stewart as a major influence, and **This Rough Magic** is often recommended as a perfect introduction to her unique style.

Tips for Readers New to Mary Stewart

If you’re considering diving into **This Rough Magic** or any of her other works, here are some tips to enhance your reading experience:

1. **Familiarize Yourself with Shakespeare:** While not essential, having some knowledge of **The Tempest** can deepen your appreciation of the novel’s themes.
2. **Embrace the Setting:** Imagine yourself on the sun-drenched shores of Corfu to fully enjoy the vivid descriptions.
3. **Pay Attention to Details:** Stewart’s mysteries often hinge on subtle clues—reading carefully will make the story more rewarding.
4. **Explore More of Stewart’s Work:** After finishing **This Rough Magic**, try her other romantic

suspense novels like **The Moon-Spinners** or **Nine Coaches Waiting** for similar thrills.

Mary Stewart's novels are perfect for readers who love a good mystery wrapped in romance, set against enchanting locales.

Whether you're a longtime fan or new to Mary Stewart's writing, **This Rough Magic** by Mary Stewart offers a captivating journey filled with intrigue, lush settings, and unforgettable characters. It's a shining example of how literature can blend magic and reality into a story that feels both timeless and deeply human.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the plot of 'This Rough Magic' by Mary Stewart?

'This Rough Magic' is a romantic suspense novel by Mary Stewart that follows the story of Lucy Waring, an actress who becomes entangled in a mystery involving art, danger, and romance while vacationing in the Greek island of Corfu.

When was 'This Rough Magic' by Mary Stewart published?

'This Rough Magic' was published in 1964 and is one of Mary Stewart's acclaimed romantic suspense novels.

What are the main themes in 'This Rough Magic' by Mary Stewart?

The main themes in 'This Rough Magic' include romance, suspense, mystery, art, and the beauty of the Greek landscape.

How does Mary Stewart incorporate the setting of Greece in 'This Rough Magic'?

Mary Stewart vividly portrays the Greek island of Corfu, using its natural beauty and cultural elements to enhance the atmosphere and mood of the novel, making the setting almost like a character itself.

Is 'This Rough Magic' part of a series by Mary Stewart?

No, 'This Rough Magic' is a standalone novel and not part of any series by Mary Stewart.

Additional Resources

****Exploring "This Rough Magic" by Mary Stewart: A Timeless Blend of Romance and Suspense****

this rough magic mary stewart is a phrase that resonates deeply with fans of classic romantic suspense literature. Mary Stewart, often hailed as a pioneer in the genre, crafts in "This Rough Magic" a narrative that intertwines mystery, romance, and a richly atmospheric setting. Published in 1964, this novel remains a significant work in Stewart's oeuvre, showcasing her distinctive style that blends lyrical prose with compelling storytelling. In this article, we delve into the nuances of "This Rough Magic," examining its themes, character development, and enduring appeal, while contextualizing its place within Mary Stewart's literary legacy.

The Essence of "This Rough Magic": A Literary Overview

At its core, "This Rough Magic" is a story of intrigue set against the lush backdrop of the Mediterranean island of Corfu. The title itself, borrowed from Shakespeare's **The Tempest**, hints at the novel's interplay between enchantment and danger. Mary Stewart's narrative invites readers into an immersive world where natural beauty collides with human passion and secrets.

The protagonist, Lucy Waring, is a Shakespearean scholar who finds herself embroiled in a mysterious plot after arriving in Corfu. The novel deftly balances Lucy's intellectual pursuits with the unfolding suspense surrounding a local playwright and a hidden treasure. This juxtaposition of cerebral and adventurous elements is a hallmark of Stewart's storytelling.

Mary Stewart's Signature Style in "This Rough Magic"

Mary Stewart's writing in "This Rough Magic" exemplifies her hallmark style: elegant, descriptive, and imbued with a subtle wit. Unlike many thrillers that rely heavily on action, Stewart's novel prioritizes atmosphere and character introspection. The prose is rich with vivid imagery that brings the Corfu landscape to life, making the setting a character in its own right.

The pacing of the novel is deliberate, allowing suspense to build organically rather than through abrupt twists. This approach appeals to readers who appreciate a blend of literary quality and genre storytelling. Moreover, the romantic elements are woven seamlessly into the plot, never overpowering the mystery but enhancing the emotional depth.

Character Dynamics and Development

The characters in "This Rough Magic" are notably complex, reflecting Mary Stewart's ability to craft multidimensional figures who evolve naturally throughout the narrative. Lucy Waring is portrayed as intelligent, resourceful, and emotionally nuanced—a departure from the often passive female leads in mid-20th-century romantic fiction.

Supporting characters, such as the enigmatic playwright Ivo, add layers of intrigue and moral ambiguity. Their interactions with Lucy explore themes of trust, loyalty, and the blurred lines between good and evil. This dynamic enriches the novel, providing readers with psychological depth alongside external conflict.

Thematic Exploration: Magic, Nature, and Human Emotion

The novel's title suggests an exploration of "rough magic," which Stewart interprets through the interplay of nature's raw beauty and the unpredictability of human passion. The Mediterranean setting is not merely a backdrop but a source of mystical energy that influences the characters' fates.

Nature, in Stewart's hands, is both enchanting and perilous—storms, rugged coastlines, and lush gardens symbolize the turbulent emotional currents running beneath the surface of the narrative. The theme of magic also extends metaphorically to the transformative power of love and courage in the face of adversity.

Comparative Context: "This Rough Magic" Among Mary Stewart's Works

When comparing "This Rough Magic" to other novels by Mary Stewart, such as "The Moon-Spinners" or "Nine Coaches Waiting," it becomes clear that this work occupies a unique space. While all share the romantic suspense framework, "This Rough Magic" leans more heavily on literary allusion and atmospheric detail.

In terms of structure, Stewart's earlier works tend to emphasize faster-paced mystery elements, whereas this novel allows for more introspective moments. Readers who favor a balance between intellectual engagement and emotional resonance often cite "This Rough Magic" as a standout.

Strengths and Potential Limitations

Pros:

- **Atmospheric setting:** The vivid depiction of Corfu enhances the immersive reading experience.
- **Character depth:** Multi-layered personalities that defy genre stereotypes.
- **Elegant prose:** Stewart's writing style elevates the novel beyond typical romantic suspense.
- **Balanced narrative:** Seamless integration of romance, mystery, and literary themes.

Cons:

- **Pacing:** The deliberate tempo may not satisfy readers seeking high-octane thrills.
- **Complexity:** Literary references and introspective passages require attentive reading.

Why "This Rough Magic" Continues to Captivate Readers

The enduring appeal of "This Rough Magic" lies in its ability to transcend the boundaries of genre fiction. Mary Stewart's nuanced portrayal of human emotion, set within a vividly realized world, offers a reading experience that is both intellectually stimulating and emotionally fulfilling.

For modern readers and literary critics alike, the novel represents a bridge between classic romantic suspense and contemporary storytelling that values character complexity and thematic richness. Its inclusion of Shakespearean elements and evocative natural imagery adds layers of meaning that reward close analysis.

Impact on Romantic Suspense and Legacy

Mary Stewart's influence on the romantic suspense genre is widely acknowledged, and "This Rough Magic" exemplifies why. By crafting protagonists like Lucy Waring—who are both strong and introspective—Stewart paved the way for future authors to explore more sophisticated female characters.

The novel's integration of setting, character, and theme has inspired adaptations and academic discussion, cementing its status as a classic. Its storytelling techniques continue to inform the genre, demonstrating the lasting power of well-crafted narrative magic.

In sum, "This Rough Magic" by Mary Stewart remains a compelling study in the art of romantic suspense, blending literary elegance with thrilling narrative elements. Its exploration of love, danger, and the mystique of nature continues to enchant readers, confirming Mary Stewart's place among the genre's most influential voices.

[This Rough Magic Mary Stewart](#)

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shoots at a tamed dolphin, a young Greek drowns off the coast of Albania, and a smuggler washes up dead in a nearby cove. Stewart uses all her formidable skill, crafting a strong story that is both literary and fast moving. Told from Lucy's point-of-view, the reader's is kept as taut as a wire as the tension mounts not only while Lucy attempts to determine the identity of the wrongdoer and the reason for his misdemeanors but as she inadvertently puts herself in harm's way.

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