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The Thirty-nine Steps

John Buchan

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John Buchan : The Thirty-nine Steps before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Thirty-nine Steps:

33 of 33 people found the following review helpful. Brisk espionage adventureBy Jordan M. PossJohn Buchan's novel The Thirty-Nine Steps is the prototype of the modern thriller novel, what he called a "shocker." In it, Buchan introduced Richard Hannay, the prototype of the resourceful, intelligent, and tenacious hero of the modern thriller. And while the story may not be as intricate or exciting as its descendents', The Thirty-Nine Steps still succeeds at what Buchan set out to do--entertain.The novel's story is very straightforward--Hannay, recently returned to "the Old Country" of England from a life spent in Africa, finds himself thoroughly bored with his new life in London. After an American spy is murdered in his apartment, Hannay finds himself on the run not only from the police, who believe him to be the murderer, but from a mysterious and malevolent organization called "The Black Stone." The Black Stone has a secret it wants to keep hidden, and eliminating Hannay would help them keep their cover.From London into the Scottish countryside, pursued by detectives, sinister Germans in touring cars, and newfangled "aeroplanes," The Thirty-Nine Steps never stops moving, and even at its conclusion one barely has a chance to catch their breath. The story is so gripping I can easily see how it caught Alfred Hitchcock's attention as film material.The novel is fast-moving and short--barely 100 pages. I read this book in a few hours at a slow deskjob. If I have to find fault with any one part of the book, it's that the conclusion--indeed, the very last half-page or so--didn't make perfect sense. I had to read it twice. But that's only a small problem for this otherwise fun and exciting book.Almost a century of imitators and innovators in the spy and espionage genres--from Ian Fleming to Tom Clancy--owe Buchan a great debt. Buchan paved the way

for these later authors with shockers like *The Thirty-Nine Steps* and its hero, Richard Hannay. Recommended rainy-day reading. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. ... 39 steps was one part in particular that 'I' liked well as his mind began to grow back again ...By CustomerDuring a lot of parts of Hannay's thoughts in-side of the book and in reconstructing his thoughts to him self about the 39 steps was one part in particular that 'I' liked well as his mind began to grow back again to another bar of 'Annie Laurie; to the sound of 'Twisdon's as some kind of resemblance to the beauty of a black stone, the name isn't it,?' / And about Trafalgar Lodge the movie say's it's inside of the London Palladium. / And the movie also says that it was a woman that was skewered surprisingly with a kitchen knife in the back. When the book says that Hannay's imagination led us to believe that he had came back 4 hours past 10 and skewered the body of Scudder and then dressed Scudder into Richard Hannay's own pajamas when shooting him in the head as for Scudder was one of the guards men and the porter inside of Hannay's flat that was in-side of the new block behind Langham Place. Does this book relate to *The Skin Game* in 1916 (or) by any chance also the book *Sabotage* in 1914?? "I" enjoyed the book very much so that "I" could say that "I" loved the book, Thank You Kindly, MJQ Los Angeles California. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A racy spy thriller!By UserA short novella. A racy read!The plot revolves around a political conspiracy and the attempts of a colonial Scotsman to thwart it, after his chance encounter with the person who first detected it. Although some events seem more contrived and less likely to help the protagonist escape (I didn't trust one person he did when he was a fugitive!), this is clearly seeing it as a person in 2016 and not in the 1910s when this book is based. In fact, I believe this book was one of the first in the spy thriller genre, and clearly worth a read for that. Lastly, hearing the characters speak in my head was lots of fun (the book goes to great pains to "vocalize" local accents).If all this doesn't sway you, this little gem is free on Kindle! What more can you ask for?