



The Glass of Time: A Novel

By Michael Cox

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The Glass of Time: A Novel By Michael Cox

“Entirely wonderful . . . chock-full of revenge, romance, duplicity, concealed identities and murder most frequent.”? *Washington Post*

Building on his haunting, superbly written debut, *The Meaning of Night*, Michael Cox returns to a story of murder, love, and revenge in Victorian England. *The Glass of Time* is a vividly imagined study of seduction, betrayal, and friendship between two powerful women bound together by the past.

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The Glass of Time: A Novel By Michael Cox Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #878184 in Books
- Brand: W. W. Norton & Company
- Published on: 2009-10-05
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.30" h x 1.50" w x 5.60" l, 1.13 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 592 pages

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Starred Review. Set in 1876, Cox's gripping second gothic thriller (after *The Meaning of Night*) follows the fortunes of 19-year-old orphan Esperanza Gorst, whose guardian charges her to go undercover as a lady's maid. Without knowing precisely why she's doing so, Gorst insinuates herself into the inner circle of Baroness Tansor, the fiancée of the preceding volume's villain, Phoebus Daunt. The fake maid soon learns that her mistress has many secrets, and may, in fact, have been complicit in the death of a former servant. Cox excels at conveying his heroine's conflict over deceiving her employer, especially after learning the role the lady played in her own difficult personal history. While readers unfamiliar with the first book will find themselves deeply engaged by the elegant descriptive prose, those with the benefit of the full context and nuances of *The Meaning of Night* will better appreciate this sequel. (Oct.)

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From [Booklist](#)

The author's first novel, *The Meaning of Night* (2006), set in London in 1854, was told from the viewpoint of a scholar turned murderer, but this sequel, set some 20 years later, is narrated by an innocent, 19-year-old Esperanza Gorst. Orphaned as a child, she has been raised in relative luxury in Paris by her guardian and given an excellent education by her tutor. However, her world is upended when they inform her that she is to leave for England in two months, where she will be employed as a lady's maid by the widowed Baroness Tansor on the vast estate of Evenwood. It is to be the first step in what they call the Great Task, but Esperanza's ultimate goal will only be revealed to her in phases. Although she appears far too refined for her occupation, Esperanza is immediately embraced by the family, but Lady Tansor proves to be a difficult employer, given to hysterics due to her tragic past—the love of her life, the pretentious poet Phoebus Daunt, was murdered by an old friend. Cox so cleverly incorporates the plot of his first novel that his new one can be read by both those who are familiar with *The Meaning of Night* and those who have never read it. Great period atmosphere, a cunning plot, and an intelligent narrator make this one a special treat for those who like some history with their mystery. --Joanne Wilkinson

Review

“Michael Cox returns with another epic Victorian-era thriller. . . . [A] gripping tale of psychological unraveling.” (Kirkus Reviews)

“Starred Review. Cox's gripping second gothic thriller (after *The Meaning of Night*) follows the fortunes of nineteen-year-old orphan Esperanza Gorst, whose guardian charges her to go undercover as a lady's maid.” (Publishers Weekly)

“Absorbing. . . . Literary pastiche at its very best.” (Times Literary Supplement)

Users Review

From reader reviews:

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