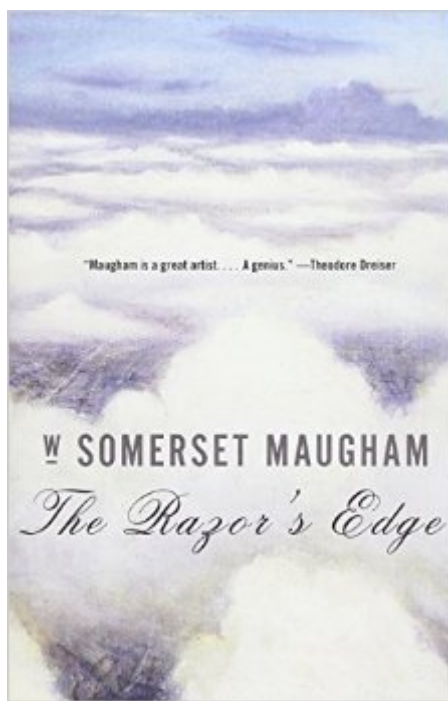


The book was found

# The Razor's Edge



## Synopsis

Larry Darrell is a young American in search of the absolute. The progress of his spiritual odyssey involves him with some of Maugham's most brilliant characters - his fiancée Isabel whose choice between love and wealth have lifelong repercussions, and Elliott Templeton, her uncle, a classic expatriate American snob. Maugham himself wanders in and out of the story, to observe his characters struggling with their fates.

## Book Information

Paperback: 320 pages

Publisher: Vintage (2003)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1400034205

ISBN-13: 978-1400034208

Product Dimensions: 5.2 x 0.6 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 3.5 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars See all reviews (428 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #17,902 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #76 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Classics #334 in Books > Literature & Fiction > British & Irish #673 in Books > Literature & Fiction > Classics

## Customer Reviews

The Razor's Edge is often described as the story of Larry, a war veteran who forsakes a comfortable life in Chicago "society" for a vague spiritual quest. It is better appreciated as a portrait of his acquaintances, whose conventional lifestyles are starkly contrasted to the path walked by the seeker. Some readers have wished to know more of Larry and criticize the space and attention Maugham lavished upon the "ancillary" characters. The Razor's Edge instead reveals much about the spiritual path by focusing on people more like the typical reader, people who do not give up materialistic Western striving. The best way to see Larry is to look at what he is not. This narrative technique succeeds wonderfully in the masterful hands of author W. Somerset Maugham, best known for *Of Human Bondage*. Rather than simply lay out the details of Larry's explorations and development, which, being spiritual and internal, would be rather dull to watch, Maugham illuminates Larry by dissecting the contrasting behavior of his associates. Maugham lavishes narrative care and attention less on the figure of Larry the seeker, but on his ground, those who embraced the life of conventional society without a thought for spirituality. Maugham shows us

several possible outcomes of such an unexamined life, from the indulgent businessman to the fragile social climber to the dissolute substance abuser. The contrasts are presented realistically and without sermon yet are no less stark for their subtlety. These characters are a rare delight: fictional creations with genuine life, who make choices, have unpredictable effects on one another, and grow as the novel develops.

This is my favorite book of all time. I've read it several times and seen both movie versions. In fact, it was the unusual, but excellent 1984 Bill Murray portrayal of Larry which made this book known to me in the first place. Here is the story of several characters, some likable and some not, in the post World War I era. Larry, a happy, go-lucky twenty-something pilot (in the movie he's an ambulance driver) returns from the war distraught and disturbed. Before the war he was engaged to Isabel and was going to return and work in his soon to be father in-law's office as stock-broker with his war volunteer buddy Gray. His friends and connections back home would provide him with a secure and comfortable future and he had it made. But unlike some modern day college graduate who's spent their education earning a pre-fab, slam-dunk business degree so as to quickly land a high-paying job, launching themselves into the American dream of yuppy-land, Larry takes a left turn. To Isabel, his friends and family it seems like a wrong turn. To others he will come to meet, Larry has avoided a certain car wreck. What makes "The Razor's Edge" a classic is that you as a reader get to decide for yourself the wisdom of each character's decisions. Somerset Maugham definitely focuses a lot on wealthy, class-oriented Eliot, who seems to be closest in personality to the author himself; but it's obvious too, that a character like Larry was both scary and intriguing to him. At times it seems like Maugham is mocking Larry, but in others there is a begrudging respect and admiration for him. This ambiguity creates a unique reading experience, especially for those who've read a biography of Maugham (I recommend Ted Morgan's biography).

[Download to continue reading...](#)

101 Razor-Sharp Blues Guitar Fill-In Licks (Book and CD) (Red Dog Music Books Razor-Sharp Blues Guitar Series) 48 Razor-Sharp 12-Bar Blues Riffs for Swing Bands and Blues Bands: B Flat Instruments Edition (Red Dog Music Books Razor-Sharp Blues Series) 101 Razor-Sharp Blues Guitar Turnarounds book and CD (Red Dog Music Books Razor-Sharp Blues Guitar Series) 101 Razor-Sharp Blues Guitar Rhythm Patterns in the Electric Urban / Chicago Style (Book and CD) (Red Dog Music Books Razor-Sharp Blues Guitar Series) 25 Razor-Sharp Blues and Boogie Guitar Solos (Book and CD) (Red Dog Music Books Razor-Sharp Blues Guitar Series) The Razor Edge Book of Sharpening The Razor's Edge Razor Girl: A novel Nik Sharpener Pro 3: How to achieve

razor sharp images (The Lightweight Photographer Books) Steppin' Razor, the Life of Peter Tosh  
Galaxy S7: The Ultimate User Guide - Learn How To Master Galaxy S7 And Galaxy S7 Edge, Plus  
Advanced Tips And Secrets! (S7 Edge, Android, Smartphone) Nightmare's Edge (Echoes from the  
Edge) The Edge of the Light (The Edge of Nowhere) Atlas of Percutaneous Edge-to-Edge Mitral  
Valve Repair Law of Attraction Directly from Source: Leading Edge Thought, Leading Edge Music At  
the Water's Edge: Muskoka's Boathouses (Art & Architecture) At Nature's Edge: Frank Lloyd  
Wright's Artist Studio Future Practice: Conversations from the Edge of Architecture The New Net  
Zero: Leading-Edge Design and Construction of Homes and Buildings for a Renewable Energy  
Future Drawing Cutting Edge Anatomy: The Ultimate Reference for Comic Book Artists

[Dmca](#)