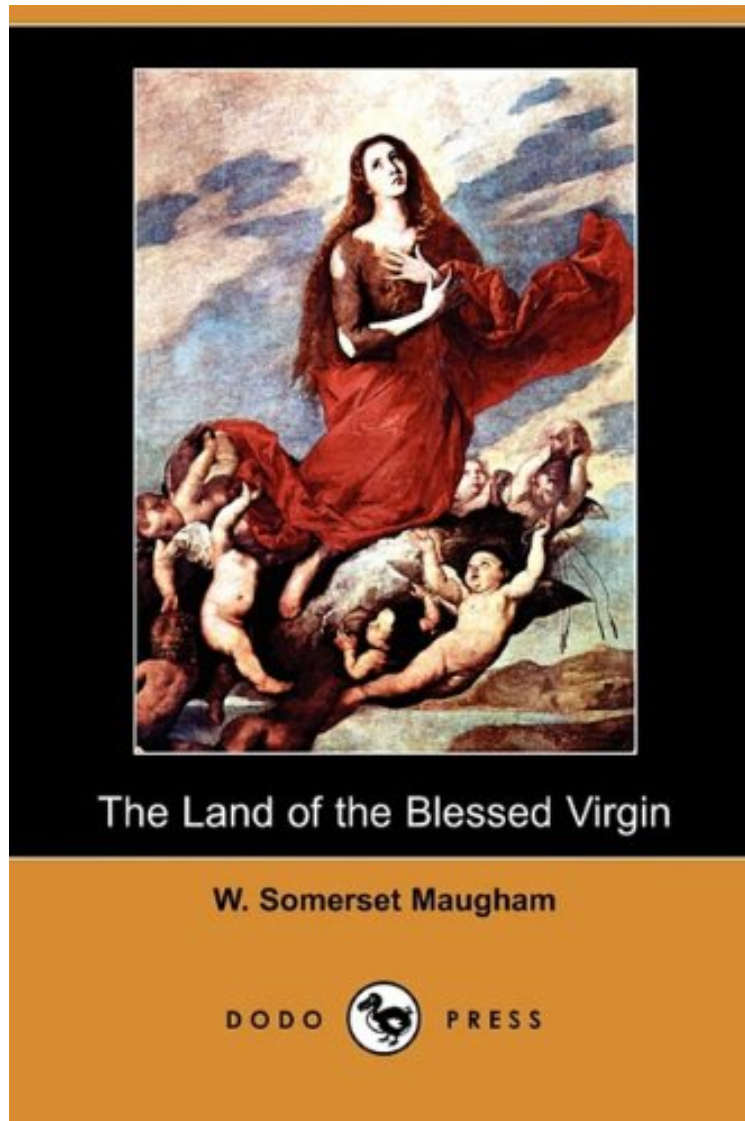


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The Land of the Blessed Virgin: Sketches and Impressions in Andalusia (Dodo Press)

W. Somerset Maugham

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William Somerset Maugham (1874-1965) was an English playwright, novelist, and short story writer. He was one of the most popular authors of his era, and reputedly the highest paid of his profession during the 1930s. By 1914 he was famous, with 10 plays produced and 10 published novels. His masterpiece is generally agreed to be *Of Human Bondage* (1915), a semi-autobiographical novel that deals with the life of the main character Philip Carey, who like Maugham, was orphaned, and brought up by his pious uncle. His last major novel, *The Razor's Edge*, published in 1944, was a departure for him in many ways. While much of the novel takes place in Europe, its main characters are American, not British. His other works include: *Liza of Lambeth* (1897), *Mrs Craddock* (1902), *A Man of Honour* (1903), *The Land of the Blessed Virgin* (1905), *The Bishop's Apron* (1906), *Lady Frederick* (1907), *The Magician* (1908), *Home and Beauty* (1909), *The Moon and Sixpence* (1919), *The Circle* (1921), *The Trembling of a Leaf* (1921), and *On a Chinese Screen* (1922).

About the Author
William Somerset Maugham was an English author, playwright, and doctor best known for the semi-autobiographical novel *Of Human Bondage*. Orphaned at a young age, Maugham was raised, unhappily, by his uncle, who urged him into a medical career despite his talent and interest in writing. Maugham gave up his career in medicine after his first novel, *Liza of Lambeth*, sold out its initial printing in several weeks, and next ventured into playwriting with *Lady Frederick*, which was such a success that by the following year Maugham had four plays running simultaneously. Maugham worked for the British Secret Service during the First World War, travelling all over the world before making his home in the south of France after Second World War and using his experiences as inspiration for new stories. Before his death in 1965, Maugham published many more successful novels including *The Letter* and *The Razor's Edge*, both of which were adapted into feature films. Maugham has been remembered as one of the most influential and successful writers of his era, and is believed to have been the highest paid author of the 1930s.