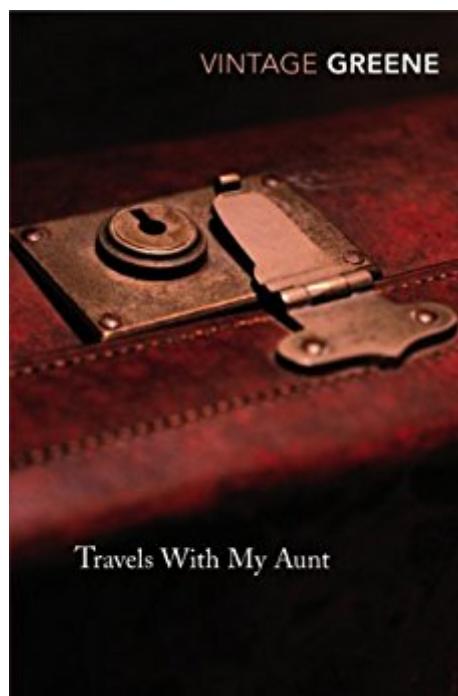


The book was found

Travels With My Aunt (Vintage Classics)



Synopsis

Henry Pulling, a retired bank manager, meets his septuagenarian Aunt Augusta for the first time in over fifty years at what he supposes to be his mother's funeral. Soon after, she persuades Henry to abandon Southwood, his dahlias and the Major next door to travel her way, Brighton, Paris, Istanbul, Paraguay. Through Aunt Augusta, a veteran of Europe's hotel bedrooms, Henry joins a shiftless, twilight society: mixing with hippies, war criminals, CIA men; smoking pot, breaking all the currency regulations and eventually coming alive after a dull suburban life. In Travels with my Aunt Graham Greene not only gives us intoxicating entertainment but also confronts us with some of the most perplexing of human dilemmas.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Prim Henry Pulling, retired British bank manager, lifelong bachelor, and fussy tender of dahlias, turns out to have a wild and crazy Aunt Augusta. They meet at his mother's funeral, but it turns out that Auntie A. has been keeping her eye on Henry for a while. No sooner are his mother's ashes in the urn, than she begins to lead him into down the primrose path. And who better do this than a

woman whose professional career appears to have been that of a madam? However, this book, intended to be comical, is not exactly a side-splitter. Characters are hackneyed, the humor a bit dated. However, the twisting plot eventually gets so nutty that you just have to give in to it and enjoy the road trip that becomes a train trip that becomes a sea and river trip and ends up in (where else?) Paraguay. Given a choice between thinking about the passage from midlife to death à la Julian Barnes (the weighty pronouncements of "Nothing to be Frightened Of") and thinking about it à la Graham Greene, I'll take "Travels with My Aunt" any day. Might as well have fun. M.

Feldman

W.W2 and a woman who knows her own mind. Graham Greene is always good but this is not his greatest. It is still an entertaining read.

I wasn't sure what to expect of Graham Greene, whether I would find him dull or interesting. And I heartily enjoyed Travels With My Aunt. Apparently, Graham Greene described it as "the only book I have written for the fun of it" (which doesn't speak so well for his other novels), and it was quite amusing, but also somehow serious at the same time (in a way.) The narrator of the book is Henry Pulling, a retired bank manager with nothing much to do. He meets his Aunt Augusta at what he believes to be his mother's funeral. She may be seventy-five, but she still travels and convinces Henry to come with her to travel the globe. Their first trip? Istanbul, via the Orient Express. Aunt Agatha also has many tales of her various adventures in various places, with various men. She was quite comic, especially the way that she talked about things. And Henry, who has never done anything dangerous in his life, finds himself mixing with all sorts of not-so-respectable company. I was pleasantly surprised by this one, though I have a feeling that not all of Graham Greene's works are so humorous and light. But it was a good place to start, and perhaps will help me enjoy other novels of his. Also, I got the Penguin Classics Deluxe Edition, which was quite beautiful designed, with a nice cover image (a dahlia, I believe.) I would definitely recommend that edition (I'm not sure if there are many others available anyway.) All of my reviews can be read at my blog novareviews.blogspot.com.

I really enjoy reading Graham Greene and was not disappointed by Travels With My Aunt which I found both original and funny. The story by Greene gets 5 stars although the audio part of the Kindle edition brings it down to 3 stars. I found the voice tedious and boring, quite unlike the audio CD of Travels With My Aunt published by AudioGO, Bath, England. 2011. ISBN: 9781445810737

and read by Tim Piggot-Smith who is a much more interesting person to listen to.

Just came back from Paris with my Niece. While our adventures weren't as crazy as the ones from Graham Green, they were very exciting. Having a young person, who is so much more mature than myself, to travel with was so much fun. While we were traveling I told her about this book, and how much it influenced me to want to travel to places I normally wouldn't have thought of going. She had never heard of it, so I went on and ordered it for her. It was waiting at her home when we got back. I am sure she will enjoy it as much as I did.

This book was a hoot! Not only does it portray two very interesting and extremely different characters, but the plot builds in a most surprising way. You'll find yourself knitting the plot together as you read. I'd really like to see the movie now, with Maggie Smith, who certainly would have been a good choice to portray the Aunt. I found the book hard to put down because something unusual was always happening.

Ha ha. Yes, ALL Graham Greene is worth reading. Because you get it straight and not through a translator. And because the writing is among the best, if not THE best, ever. (All of them) Makes a person proud to be a human being. If you have not started with "Our Man in Havana" this one is a good one to begin your adventure. I envy (in the nicest way) your being able to read these wonderful books for the first time. Enjoy.

I liked the book and appreciated Graham Greene's writing skill, but the last chapter ruined it for me. The ending seemed to be a cop out, Greene didn't know how to finish the book so he just made a mess of it. The entire book is about a reliable, honest banker who retired early to raise dahlias in a bucolic English village. Then his real mother, age 75, shows up to take him traveling, a woman of ill-repute and bad choices, who at the last chapter corrupts him into falling in with her and her late 80s Nazi lover so they can all risk their lives in Paraguay in criminal acts such as smuggling American liquor and cigarettes. He also is pledged to marry a 15 year old girl, although throughout his life he preferred living alone. No author owes his readers a happy ending, but does owe the reader an honest ending. Why would a respectable man in his mid-50s take such a sudden plunge into depravity and crime? The ending is unbelievable and leaves the reader feeling duped.

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