



## Melmoth the Wanderer: An 1820 Gothic Novel - Abridged

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By Charles Maturin

Createspace Independent Publishing Platform, United States, 2015. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Abridged. 254 x 178 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book \*\*\*\*\* Print on Demand

\*\*\*\*\*. An 1820 Gothic Novel Melmoth the

WandererAbridgedCharles MaturinMelmoth the Wanderer is an 1820 Gothic novel by Irish playwright, novelist and clergyman Charles Maturin. The novel's titular character is a scholar who sold his soul to the devil in exchange for 150 extra years of life, and searches the world for someone who will take over the pact for him, in a manner reminiscent of the Wandering Jew. The novel is composed of a series of nested stories-within-stories, gradually revealing the story of Melmoth's life. The novel offers social commentary on early-19th-century England, and denounces Roman Catholicism in favour of the virtues of Protestantism. John Melmoth, a student in Dublin, visits his dying uncle. He finds a portrait of a mysterious ancestor called Melmoth; the portrait is dated 1646. At his uncle's funeral, John is told an old family story about a stranger called Stanton who arrived looking for Melmoth the Traveller decades earlier. A manuscript left by Stanton describes his first finding Melmoth laughing at the sight of two lovers who have...



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