

APPENDICES

SYNOPSIS OF THE HEART OF THE MATTER

For fifteen years honest chief policeman Major Scobie in British West African district has expected to be promoted to become commissioner, only to be passed up in favor of a younger man. When Mrs. Scobie finds out that her husband is not to be promoted, she insists on being permitted to go to South Africa for a vacation. The marriage is not a very happy one, because what Scobie feels towards his wife is just responsibility as a husband. Scobie wants to fulfil his wife's demand but he has not the money to pay for the trip. Turned down by the banks, Scobie takes the risk to his reputation by accepting a loan from the disreputable Yusef, a Syrian merchant deeply involved in all sorts of shady deals, including diamond smuggling.

After Mrs. Scobie leaves, her husband begins to have doubts about his own honesty. In searching a Portuguese liner upon its arrival in port, Scobie finds a suspicious letter in the captain's cabin, but instead of turning it over to the authorities, he burns the evidence because he thinks that the letter is just for the Captain's daughter.

Yusef now begins to be very close towards Scobie, and people begin to notice it. The relationship between Scobie and Yusef brings him to trouble because the Commissioner begins to doubt Scobie as an honest policeman.

Scobie is now vulnerable in other ways as well. Mrs. Rolt is a young bride whose husband has been killed in the war. Scobie falls in love with her. Mrs. Rolt wants Scobie to divorce his wife and marry her if he really is in love with her. He is now, according to his faith, eternally damned because he has committed adultery; on top of that, he feels desperate because he cannot divorce his wife and marry her.

As a Catholic, Scobie thinks that he has failed in facing life. He feels he has deserted God and has committed so many sins. He cannot bear his condition now.

Scobie decides that suicide would be the only way out of his predicament. He feigns having angina pectoris and takes an overdose of a drug prescribed for its relief. He dies after having prepared his diary with entries on the progressive development of his ailment so that Mrs. Scobie can collect the insurance money without trouble and leave this detested place forever.

BIOGRAPHY OF GRAHAM GREENE

Graham Greene was born in 1904. On coming down from Balliol College, Oxford, he worked for four years as sub-editor of The Times. He established his reputation with his fourth novel, Stamboul Train. In 1935 he made a journey across Liberia, described in Journey Without Maps, and on his return was appointed film critic of the Spectator. In 1926 he was received into the Roman Catholic Church and visited Mexico in 1938 to report on the religious persecution there. As a result he wrote The Lawless Roads and, later, his famous novel, The Power and the Glory. Brighton Rock was published in 1938 and in 1940 he became literary editor of the Spectator. The next year he undertook work for the Foreign Office and was stationed in Sierra Leone from 1941 to 1943. After that he wrote the novel, The Heart of the Matter, set in West Africa.

Besides his many novels, Graham Greene wrote several collections of short stories, four travel books, six plays, three books of autobiography-A Sort of Life, Ways of Escape and A World of My Own (published posthumously)-two biographies and four books for children. He also contributed hundreds of essays, and film and book reviews, some of which appear in the collections, Reflections and Mornings in the Dark. Many of his novels and short stories have been filmed and The Third Man was written as a film treatment. Graham Greene was a member of the Order of Merit and a Companion of Honour. Graham Greene died in April 1991.