

## The Confidenceman His Masquerade

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[The Confidence-Man: His Masquerade](#), first published in New York on April Fool's Day 1857, is the ninth book and final novel by American writer Herman Melville. The book was published on the exact day of the novel's setting. Centered on the title character, *The Confidence-*

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Man portrays a group of steamboat passengers.

The Confidence-Man - Wikipedia

More like a collection of tales than a novel, yet with a unifying theme throughout, THE CONFIDENCE-MAN is an entertaining yet cynical reflection on hucksters, con-men, duplicity. Episodic, with even a bit of literary criticism and theory thrown into the mix. Serio-comic and immensely readable.

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The Confidence-Man: His Masquerade - Herman Melville

The Confidence-Man, His Masquerade. Herman Melville. \$0.99; \$0.99; Publisher Description. Cryptic, yet brilliant novel by the author of Moby Dick. According to Wikipedia: "Herman Melville (August 1, 1819 – September 28, 1891) was an American novelist, short story writer, essayist and poet. His first two books gained much attention, though ...

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The Confidence-Man: His Masquerade - Herman Melville ...

The Confidence-Man: His Masquerade. On April Fool's Day in 1856, a shape-shifting grifter boards a Mississippi riverboat to expose the pretenses, hypocrisies, and self-delusions of his fellow passengers.

The Confidence-Man: His Masquerade

Herman Melville must have had royal fun writing The Confidence-Man: His Masquerade (1857). One imagines him laughing at his desk as the titular character passes through his costume-changes and works his serial frauds, each of the latter based on cajoling, shaming, or arguing his credulous marks into demonstrations of "confidence."

The Confidence-Man: His Masquerade by Herman Melville ...

Herman Melville ' s novel The Confidence-Man: His Masquerade (1857) is a comedy of masquerades and a blend of allegory, cultural satire, and metaphysics. The book portrays a confidence man who sneaks on board a Mississippi steamboat on April Fool's Day, and sets out to defraud his fellow passengers.

The Confidence-Man: His Masquerade by Herman Melville ...

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The Confidence-Man From the shrugged shoulders, titters, whispers, wonderings of the crowd, it was plain that he was, in the extremest sense of the word, a stranger. The Confidence-Man: His Masquerade is an 1857 work by Herman Melville.

The Confidence-Man - Wikiquote

CONFIDENCE-MAN: HIS MASQUERADE. BY HERMAN MELVILLE, AUTHOR OF "PIAZZA TALES," "OMOO," "TYPEE," ETC., ETC. NEW YORK: DIX, EDWARDS & CO., 321 BROADWAY 1857. Entered according to act of Congress, in the year 1857, by HERMAN MELVILLE, In the Clerk's Office of the District Court of the United States for the

The Project Gutenberg eBook of The Confidence-Man, by ...

THE CONFIDENCE-MAN Some literary critics have reckoned Herman Melville 's (1819–1891) The Confidence-Man: His Masquerade (1857) the author's "second best" book, after MobyDick (1851); it is certainly one of his most provocative and problematic. The Confidence-Man bears little resemblance to Melville's sea epic, at any rate.

At sunrise on a first of April, there appeared, suddenly as Manco Capac at the lake Titicaca, a man in cream-colors, at the water-side in the city of St. Louis. His cheek was fair, his chin downy, his hair flaxen, his hat a white fur one, with a long fleecy nap. He had neither trunk, valise, carpet-bag, nor parcel. No porter followed him. He was unaccompanied by friends. From the shrugged shoulders, titters, whispers, wonderings of the crowd, it was plain that he was, in the extremest sense of the word, a stranger. In the same moment with his advent, he stepped aboard the favorite steamer Fidèle, on the point of starting for New Orleans. Stared at, but unsaluted, with the air of one neither courting nor shunning regard, but evenly pursuing the path of duty, lead it through solitudes or cities, he held on his way along the lower deck until he chanced to come to a placard nigh the captain's office, offering a reward for the capture of a mysterious impostor, supposed to have recently arrived from the East; quite an original genius in his vocation, as would appear, though wherein his originality consisted was not clearly given; but what purported to be a careful description of his person followed.

“ In The Confidence-Man, ” writes John Bryant in his Introduction, “ Melville found a way to render our tragic sense of self and society through the comic strategies of the confidence game. He puts the reader in the game to play its parts and to contemplate the inconsistencies of its knaves and fools. ” Set on a Mississippi steamer on April Fool ' s Day and populated by a series of shape-shifting con men, The Confidence-Man is a challenging metaphysical and ethical exploration of antebellum American society. Set from the first American edition of 1857, this Modern Library paperback includes an Appendix with Bryant ' s innovative “ fluid text ” analysis of early manuscript fragments from Melville ' s novel.

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Presents the authoritative text of Herman Melville's classic work "The Confidence Man;" and contains textual and explanatory notes, contemporary reviews and critical essays, and biographical overviews.

Savage irony and black humor as Melville's Confidence-Man strips away the hypocritical pretenses of fellow passengers on a Mississippi steamboat.

Engaging with literature on advertising, philosophy, psychology, and cultural theory, as well as a range of fictional and nonfictional "texts," The Adman's Dilemma traces the trajectory of the adman from the late nineteenth century to the present.

The Confidence-Man: His Masquerade, first published in New York on April Fool's Day 1857, is the ninth book and final novel by American writer Herman Melville. The book was published on the exact day of the novel's setting.

"The Confidence-Man: His Masquerade" is the 1857 novel by Herman Melville, his ninth and final work. It tells the interlocking stories of a group of travelers aboard a steamboat on the Mississippi River making their way towards New Orleans. Emulating the style of Chaucer's "The Canterbury Tales", the novel centers on its title character, the Confidence-Man, a mysterious figure who sneaks aboard the steamboat and successively tests the confidence of the passengers. He adopts various disguises, such as a handicapped beggar, a sophisticated businessman, and a cosmopolitan gentleman, swindling his fellow passengers in many small ways. The story consists primarily of the reactions of the travelers to this schemer and in doing so the dishonesties and pretensions of the passengers are exposed and their true natures are revealed. Melville took a satirical approach to contemporary cultural figures in much of the novel and it is believed that many of the characters were based on popular authors, such as Ralph Waldo Emerson, Nathaniel Hawthorne, and Edgar Allan Poe. "The Confidence-Man" is a rich exposition on the nature of human identity set against the vivid imagery of the Mississippi riverboat era. This edition is printed on premium acid-free paper.

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was not clearly given; but what purported to be a careful description of his person followed. As if it had been a theatre-bill, crowds were gathered about the announcement, and among them certain chevaliers, whose eyes, it was plain, were on the capitals, or, at least, earnestly seeking sight of them from behind intervening coats; but as for their fingers, they were enveloped in some myth; though, during a chance interval, one of these chevaliers somewhat showed his hand in purchasing from another chevalier, ex-officio a peddler of money-belts, one of his popular safe-guards, while another peddler, who was still another versatile chevalier, hawked, in the thick of the throng, the lives of Measan, the bandit of Ohio, Murrel, the pirate of the Mississippi, and the brothers Harpe, the Thugs of the Green River country, in Kentucky-creatures, with others of the sort, one and all exterminated at the time, and for the most part, like the hunted generations of wolves in the same regions, leaving comparatively few successors; which would seem cause for unalloyed gratulation, and is such to all except those who think that in new countries, where the wolves are killed off, the foxes increase.

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