

this rough magic mary stewart

This Rough Magic is a captivating novel by Mary Stewart, first published in 1964. It intertwines elements of mystery, adventure, and romance, all set against the backdrop of the enchanting Greek island of Corfu. Stewart's mastery of descriptive prose and her ability to weave a compelling narrative make this work a standout in the realm of contemporary fiction. In this article, we will explore the themes, characters, and the unique setting of "This Rough Magic," as well as its significance in Mary Stewart's oeuvre.

Overview of the Novel

"This Rough Magic" follows the journey of Lucy Waring, a young actress who travels to Corfu to recuperate from a recent heartbreak and to assist her sister, who is involved in a theatrical production. Unbeknownst to Lucy, her sojourn in this idyllic landscape will lead her into a web of intrigue, danger, and unexpected romance.

Plot Summary

The narrative begins with Lucy's arrival on Corfu, where she is quickly drawn into the island's charm. Here are some key plot points that shape the story:

1. **Arrival in Corfu:** Lucy's initial experiences on the island establish a sense of wonder and set the stage for the adventures that follow.
2. **The Mysterious Stranger:** Lucy encounters a mysterious man, who becomes crucial to the unfolding mystery.
3. **The Discovery:** As Lucy explores her surroundings, she stumbles upon a hidden secret that connects her to dark forces at play on the island.
4. **Romantic Developments:** The chemistry between Lucy and the enigmatic stranger deepens, complicating her situation further.
5. **Climax and Resolution:** The story builds to a thrilling climax, where Lucy must confront danger and ultimately find her place in the world.

Themes

Mary Stewart's "This Rough Magic" delves into several themes that resonate throughout the narrative:

- **Love and Relationships:** The novel explores romantic entanglements, showcasing how love can be both a refuge and a source of conflict.
- **Identity and Self-Discovery:** Lucy's journey is as much about discovering herself as it is about unraveling the mysteries surrounding her.
- **The Power of Nature:** The Greek landscape plays a vital role, symbolizing both beauty and danger, mirroring the characters' emotional journeys.
- **Good vs. Evil:** The conflict between light and dark is a recurring motif, manifesting through the characters and the situations they face.

Character Analysis

The characters in "This Rough Magic" are richly developed, each contributing to the story's depth and complexity. Here are some of the key figures:

Lucy Waring

Lucy is a relatable protagonist, embodying the spirit of a modern woman. Her journey from heartbreak to empowerment is both inspiring and engaging. As an actress, she is skilled at portraying emotions, which adds layers to her character as she navigates her own feelings.

The Mysterious Man

Central to the intrigue is the enigmatic man Lucy meets on the island. His character is multifaceted, embodying both charm and danger. As the plot unfolds, his true motivations come to light, revealing deeper truths about love and sacrifice.

Supporting Characters

The supporting cast plays a crucial role in enriching the narrative. From Lucy's sister, who represents familial bonds, to local islanders who add authenticity to the setting, each character helps to illustrate the themes of the story.

Setting: The Enchantment of Corfu

Corfu serves as a vibrant backdrop for the novel, enhancing the story's romantic and

adventurous elements. Stewart's vivid descriptions bring the island to life, allowing readers to experience its beauty and mystery.

Importance of Place

The island is not just a setting; it is a character in its own right. The following aspects highlight why Corfu is significant to the narrative:

- **Natural Beauty:** Stewart's lush descriptions of the landscape evoke a sense of wonder and transport readers to the sun-drenched shores and rugged hills of Corfu.
- **Cultural History:** The rich history of the island adds depth to the story, as Lucy encounters remnants of ancient civilizations and local traditions.
- **Symbolism:** The island's duality—its beauty and its dangers—mirrors Lucy's internal struggles, making it an integral part of her journey.

Mary Stewart's Writing Style

Mary Stewart's writing style is characterized by her lyrical prose and keen attention to detail. She has a talent for creating vivid imagery that immerses readers in the story. Her ability to balance suspense with romance ensures that the narrative remains engaging.

Descriptive Prose

Stewart's use of descriptive language not only paints a picture of Corfu but also reflects the emotional states of her characters. For instance, the serene beauty of the island often contrasts with the underlying tension of the plot, enhancing the reader's experience.

Dialogue and Character Voice

The dialogue in "This Rough Magic" is natural and engaging, revealing character traits and motivations effectively. Each character has a distinct voice, contributing to the richness of the narrative.

Significance in Mary Stewart's Oeuvre

"This Rough Magic" is an essential work in Mary Stewart's bibliography, showcasing her

ability to blend romance with mystery and adventure. It stands alongside her other notable works, further establishing her reputation as a master storyteller.

Influence on the Genre

Stewart's novels have influenced the romantic suspense genre, paving the way for future authors. Her unique combination of travel, romance, and mystery set a standard that many have sought to emulate.

Conclusion

In conclusion, Mary Stewart's "This Rough Magic" is a timeless tale of adventure, romance, and self-discovery. Through the journey of Lucy Waring, readers are invited to explore the complexities of love, identity, and the magic of the natural world. The novel's rich themes, well-drawn characters, and enchanting setting make it a standout work that continues to resonate with readers today. Whether you are a longtime fan of Mary Stewart or a newcomer to her writing, "This Rough Magic" is a captivating read that promises to transport you to a world of beauty and intrigue.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the central theme of 'This Rough Magic' by Mary Stewart?

The central theme of 'This Rough Magic' is the interplay between magic and reality, exploring how personal growth and self-discovery can be influenced by the mystical elements of the world.

Who is the protagonist in 'This Rough Magic'?

The protagonist of 'This Rough Magic' is Lucy Waring, an English actress who finds herself entangled in a world of mystery and magic while vacationing on the Greek island of Corfu.

How does Mary Stewart incorporate elements of Greek mythology in 'This Rough Magic'?

Mary Stewart weaves Greek mythology into the narrative by referencing mythical figures and stories, particularly through the character of the magician, which enhances the magical atmosphere of the novel.

What role does the setting play in 'This Rough Magic'?

The setting of Corfu plays a crucial role as it provides a lush, enchanting backdrop that complements the novel's themes of magic and romance, creating an immersive experience for readers.

Is 'This Rough Magic' part of a series?

'This Rough Magic' is a standalone novel, but it is often associated with Mary Stewart's other works that feature elements of romance, suspense, and the supernatural.

What is the significance of the title 'This Rough Magic'?

The title 'This Rough Magic' suggests the raw, untamed nature of the magical elements in the story, reflecting the unpredictable forces at play in Lucy's life and her journey.

How does the character of Lucy Waring evolve throughout the novel?

Lucy Waring evolves from a self-doubting actress into a more confident and empowered individual as she confronts various challenges and uncovers the mysteries surrounding her.

What kind of conflicts does Lucy face in 'This Rough Magic'?

Lucy faces both external conflicts, such as danger from a mysterious antagonist, and internal conflicts related to her self-identity and her feelings towards love and magic.

What literary techniques does Mary Stewart use in 'This Rough Magic'?

Mary Stewart employs vivid imagery, descriptive language, and foreshadowing to create an atmospheric narrative that captivates readers and enhances the sense of magic.

What impact has 'This Rough Magic' had on the genre of romantic suspense?

'This Rough Magic' has had a significant impact on the romantic suspense genre by blending elements of romance, adventure, and the supernatural, influencing many authors who came after Mary Stewart.

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