

Strange Conflict (Duke de Richleau, #9) (Black Magic, #2) By Dennis Wheatley Which way to go?? Then there's the reveal from the Witch Doctor...and it made such sense...Strange Conflict is an obvious propaganda piece to incite the allied population against the Germans and portray our side as allied with the side of Good. But the loss of supplies is wreaking havoc in vital commodities.

বরং ভূতুড়ে এ্যাডভেঞ্চার বই বলা যেতে পারে। দ্বিতীয় বিশ্বযুদ্ধ চলাকালীন সময়ে নাৎসীদের হাতে একের পর এক বিপর্যস্থ হচ্ছিলো ব্রিটিশ নৌযান। এ সময় ডিউক দ্য রিচলুর সাহায্য প্রার্থী হন স্যার পেলিনর। ডিউক নাৎসীদের গুপ্ত খবর সংগ্রহ করার ব্যাপারে তাকে শোনায়ে অদ্ভুত কিছু ঘটনা.

যা প্রথমটায় স্যার পেলিনর কিছুতেই মেনে নিতে পারছিলেন না। অবশেষে বাধ্য হয়ে ডিউক তাকে হোয়াইট ম্যাজিকের ব্যবহার দেখিয়ে বিশ্বাস করতে বাধ্য করেন। দেশকে শত্রুর কবল থেকে রক্ষার দায়িত্ব এসে চাপে ডিউকের কাঁধে। এই কাজে ডিউকের সঙ্গী হন তার পুরনো বন্ধুগণ যথাক্রমে- মেরি লু (ডিউকের স্ত্রী).

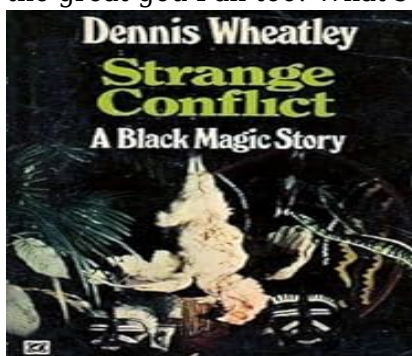
সাইমন ও রিচার্ড। ডিউক তার লাইব্রেরি রুমে পেন্টাগন একে ঘুমের ভেতর দিয়ে আত্মা চালিত করে শত্রুপক্ষের গুপ্ত আত্মার সন্ধানে বের হন। এর ফলশ্রুতিতেই হিটলারের পক্ষ থেকে ব্ল্যাক ম্যাজিক পরিচালনাকারী শত্রুকে বিনাশ করতে তাদের পুরো দলটা প্লেন নিয়ে উড়ে যায় ওয়েস্ট ইন্ডিজের হাইতি দ্বীপে। আর সেখানে গিয়ে দেখা মেলে নাৎসীদের পক্ষাভ্রমকারী শয়তান বোকোরের.

যার শক্তির মাত্রা তারা ঘুণাক্ষরেও আন্দাজ করতে পারেননি। বইটির শেষ দিকে লেখক বার দুয়েক টুইস্ট দেবার চেষ্টা চালিয়েছেন। দুটো টুইস্টই বেশ দুর্বল। সচেতন পাঠকমাত্রই শুরু থেকে বুঝে বুঝে পড়ে যেতে থাকলে টুইস্ট দুটো আগে থেকে ধরে ফেলতে পারবেন। বইটিতে ইতিহাসের বর্ণনা প্রচুর.

Dennis Yates Wheatley (8 January 1897 - 10 November 1977) [Born: Dennis Yeats Wheatley] was an English author. His first book Three Inquisitive People was not immediately published; but his first published novel The Forbidden Territory was an immediate success when published in 1933 being reprinted seven times in seven weeks. His first book Three Inquisitive People was not immediately published; but his first published novel The Forbidden Territory was an immediate success when published in 1933 being reprinted seven times in seven weeks. From 1974 through 1977 he edited a series of 45 paperback reprints for the British publisher Sphere under the heading The Dennis Wheatley Library of the Occult selecting the titles and writing short introductions for each book. This series included both occult themed novels by the likes of Bram Stoker and Aleister Crowley and non fiction works on magic occultism and divination by authors such as the Theosophist H. His estate library was sold in a catalogue sale by Basil Blackwell's in the 1970s indicating a thoroughly well read individual with wide ranging interests particularly in historical fiction and Europe. Wikipedia {site_link} Arrow 1969 edition paperback vg book In stock shipped from our UK warehouse Strange Conflict (Duke de Richleau #9) (Black Magic #2) I'm a huge fan of The Devil Rides Out the Hammer adaptation of Wheatley's previous Duke de Richleau novel. A very cool chase ensues with the three combatants shifting into antagonistic shapes in a running pursuit across the astral plane sort of a high speed wizards' duel (the spy for instance shifts into a snake and plunges down a hole the Duke dives after him changing in mid air from a falcon to a burrowing mongoose etc). Be warned Wheatley has a lot to say about the Black Republic and its people as well as capitulating France (there's an odd section in the middle of the book where Rex breaks off in mid-tirade and a single disclaimer taking up a whole page reads something along the lines of the text having been removed by the author rather than offend England's allies). However toward the last third of the book when the admittedly predictable identity of the villain is revealed I did find myself thrown for a loop by another very cool twist I didn't see coming. All in all it turned out to be a good read though ending in a neat forties admonishment that this had been but one battle in the greater war and a soaring declaration that the forces of darkness would surely find the indomitable island of Great Britain a bastion of light for years to come. Somehow through magical means the Nazis are able to locate many of the supply convoys that are aiding the British and destroy them which leads our heroes to engage in their own supernatural battles across the astral plane to solve the mystery and to bring victory to the Forces of Light with echoes of the real-life military intelligence conundrum of how to crack the enemy's advantage without exposing yourself or giving the enemy time to switch up the rules of engagement before you can actualize on it. Indeed their first true

triumph tracking the evil to its source is only the beginning of their struggle as this leads to them suffering physical and metaphysical assault driving them to a desperate flight towards the enemy to try and gain victory before they are worn down. There are crash landings and desperate escape from mobs and bombs and evil elementals and the summoning of Great Old Ones and corpse mutilations all as stand in for some of the real problems that faced the British at roughly the same time the novel was written and takes place in: espionage cipher breaking double agents and important personal battles in out-of-the-way locales. Though it is clearly wartime pro-British propaganda - with asides including mocking the effectiveness of the Blitz praising the English spirit attacking the French's surrender chiding the Americans for not being involved (this was prior to Pearl Harbor) casting the entirety of Germany as being implicit in the Evil of Nazis - rarely does it chafe as such and even when it does it is largely forgivable being written in 1941 (one ending line about Anglos being the true Guardians of Light and the only hope for the entire world being a bit OTT). It's theosophic world view likewise is not too terribly overblown on the whole though given towards long speeches written out like bad Socratic dialogues where a main character will essentially information dump for page after page (and sometimes chapter after chapter) while other people say things like That makes sense and I agree. Instead the flaws are in the overall pacing (once it reaches around the half-way mark the book nearly forgets it is a quick-paced wartime espionage novel and instead changes gears to become a romp through the tropics with barely a sentence aimed at the all-important downed convoys to be had in the last half) and some horrendously unnecessary racism. In a book about Nazi agents and European war and literal black magic the book decides to make the black part of the word far too racially charged and engages in race-baiting (there is even a line possibly as a decoy claiming the good and powerful Euro gods are offended to help swarthy folks). Even to what degree you can justify the racism of the book with the old hedgehog of a different time and man of his time and in the context of its time I still keep going back to the fact that it is a book of propaganda against Nazis for Skarl's sake. you have literary Nazis who are like Nazis but even more evil and this is a book designed as agit-prop to rally its readers into holding fast against the Nazi hordes so where in the hell are the (literally in the context of the novel) damned Nazis? Why attack one of the countries who was actually on the side of helping the US and UK during the war (after the time period of the novel sure but it was already extending some visas to Jewish people escaping the Holocaust). It has no problem dedicating pages to sunburns or how victims of suicide jeopardize their immortal soul or the shape of a particular island's geography or how secret documents are protected from spies or how religious rituals work but then for all this real world consideration and heavy-handed moralizing not once does something like a 5-6 hours of time-zone difference and how this would impact sleep-related astral activities get dealt with or how jet lag would impact dream warriors or how either of those tie into the greater plot. Of course things wrap up reallllly conveniently at the end after pages of diversions and digressions like the ending was a known thing but Wheatley was aiming for a specific page count goal. The biggest sin here is a chase scene leading up to the climatic confrontation that serves no purpose besides to give false tension and heroic despair at a point in time the novel could easily have progressed to the final battle (and perhaps to give our white heroes a chance to flee from rampaging superstitious black folk even though on paper the mob is doing the right thing). After that the real final battle is mostly a philosophical thought experiment nothing like an earlier sister battle which involved shape-shifting walls of fire channeling of the elements fleeing through dreamscapes and desperate heroics. All it takes is to think back upon how one particular tragic romantic subplot is resolved without passion (both literally for the characters and seemingly for Wheatley) and does little besides to throw some more damnation at black-as-in-African magic to see how this book brushed near greatness but fell away from it: too many asides too much quick summation of some things while other things are driven out too cat-eating-a-canary smug with its conservative worldview with less care towards what could have been a really clever plot and more given to checking off the early 20th century British adventure romp checklist. The fact that this novel was actually written during the Blitz of 1941 made it especially interesting for me as I think of it as a little time capsule of what people thought and felt

during that period in history. I have loved the Duke's arguments about how the supernatural is real and its relation to existing religion but for the first 30% of the novel it is almost word for word the dialogue from *Devil Rides Out*. However at the time it was written Voodoo was still a very unknown religion considered savage and hype of zombies and witchdoctors spoiled even the few anthropological studies at that time. Lovecraft has never bothered me Wheatley's other works have never bothered me but *Strange Conflict* openly treats black people as being either evil monsters or ignorant buffoons incapable of reasonable thought. His casual racism wherein he assumes that black people are necessarily less intelligent or decent than whites or that just about any race in existence takes second place to the English. And the frequently repeated implication that a physically ugly person or one with a disability is automatically a bad person! But frankly one doesn't have to get too far into the best of DW's stories to forget his faults. The goodies - a Franco/Russian aristocrat a Russian Princess a Sephardic Jew an American and a true-blue Englishman - represent a pretty good sprinkling of the forces arraigned against the Nazi menace. And though the Haitians are represented either as evil Satanists or more often eye-rolling morons one needs to remember that at the time this book was written DW's views were more or less mainstream. What sets Wheatley apart from most other adventure authors of his time is that his heroes are not just fighting for political ends (Allies vs Axis Democrats vs Communists whatever) but that these struggles are just an earthly extension of the eternal battle between darkness and light with Satan using various earthly organizations as tools of his evil will. The Nazi party are not just a group of fascists left by a madman but the physical wing of the devil's ploy for world dominance! This novel is one of the classic examples of this philosophy. So off go the team to stop the rot - which it transpires is caused by a Voodoo practitioner on the Island of Haiti! It's a fast - very fast - paced adventure tale with lots of suspense and action both on the Astral Plane and the physical. As is common with this author there's a great info dump with lots of occult lore and historical fact woven in but this is well integrated and actually helps in the pacing and suspense of the story. There are some scenes that wouldn't be out of place in a modern Oscar-winning movie such as a fight between the Duke and the evil Voodooist a game of tennis on the Astral Plane (truly!) a chilling scene with the goodies protected only by a pentacle menaced by all sorts of ab-human elementals and a truly spectacular chase scene when the hordes of hell pursue the heroes through the spirit world. Oh and it's got a very pretty zombie and a guest appearance by the great god Pan too! What's not to like??? Thriller Historical Fiction Paranormal



'Strange Conflict' has all the trademarks of a genuine Wheatley book: it is racist sexist chauvinist militarist etc. On the one hand however this one is much better than the post WWII books where Wheatley spends most of the pages moaning about the decline of British power and regularly descends into paranoia about Commies everywhere. Thriller Historical Fiction Paranormal I woke up one morning terribly missing England so I figured I'd get a book from the most English series ever by the most English writer ever. I wonder if the CIA knows how much easier it is if one can travel in the astral? Hmm it appears that de Richleau Rex Richard and Simon have been up to all sorts of mischief (through the Duke de Richleau series) since *The Devil Rides Out* 1 (6). One of the pluses of reading an author writing contemporaneously in the 1930s means we have a primary source for the time's culture manners and modes of communication and travel for that time. *Strange Conflict* is FULL of action chase scenes drama and plenty of tension what with the rioting townsfolk arson sharks battling off the vulnerability of sleep and zombification...eek!...It does make sense even if it

does make me laugh that the Haitians should appropriate the images of Catholic saints to represent their Voodoo gods. After all the excitement in *The Devil Rides Out* about Rex being in love with Tanith where is she? Rex is on his own in *Strange Conflict* and there is absolutely no mention of her. Richard Eaton is married to the Princess Marie Louise Aphrodite Blankfort De Cantezane de Schulemoff (she's had previous experience with the supernatural and magic) and they have a daughter Fleur. The Rada are from the Congo and are evil with the principal gods Papa Legba God of the Gate; Papa Loco the God of Wisdom and Medicine; and Baron Cimenterre the head god the Lord of the Cemetery the Lord Saturday is another of his aliases. Thriller Historical Fiction Paranormal

বইটার নাম আর প্রচ্ছদ দেখে বেশ জমাট একখানা ভৌতিক গল্প পড়ার প্রস্তুতি নিয়ে শুরু করেছিলাম। পড়া শুরুর পর ধীরে ধীরে হতাশ হতে শুরু করলাম। এটাকে ঠিক ভৌতিক বই নয় রেক্স যা একটা পর্যায়ে বিরক্তির উদ্বেক করে। আর শেষের ভৌতিক স্তরে দুই আত্মার সঙ্গে মারামারিটা ঠিক জমেনি। তবে মূল ব্যাপার হলো এই বইতে ভয় পাবার মত কিছুই নেই। খসরু চৌধুরীর অনুবাদ সুন্দর ও সাবলীল। Thriller Historical Fiction Paranormal.

His dabbling with Magic and that he is not quite White: I haven't been that impressed with de Richleau's thinking in this: He doesn't know about Voodoo? He doesn't consider sealing all of his friends' nine orifices as well as his own? That bargain de Richleau made with Pan was terrifying: Not that that was all that difficult what with the atrocities the German armies were committing, The StorySir Pellinore is shocked at the duke's statement as to how the Nazis are likely to be discovering the route that ship convoys are taking: His prolific output of stylish thrillers and occult novels made him one of the worlds best selling authors in the 1950s and 1960s, He wrote adventure stories with many books in a series of linked works: His plots covered the French Revolution (Roger Brook Series) Satanism (Duc de Richleau) World War II (Gregory Sallust) and espionage (Julian Day): In the thirties he conceived a series of whodunit mysteries pres Dennis Yates Wheatley (8 January 1897 - 10 November 1977) [Born: Dennis Yeats Wheatley] was an English author. His prolific output of stylish thrillers and occult novels made him one of the world's best selling authors in the 1950s and 1960s. He wrote adventure stories with many books in a series of linked works: His plots covered the French Revolution (Roger Brook Series) Satanism (Duc de Richleau) World War II (Gregory Sallust) and espionage (Julian Day). In the thirties he conceived a series of whodunit mysteries presented as case files with testimonies letters pieces of evidence such as hairs or pills. The reader had to go through the evidence to solve the mystery before unsealing the last pages of the file which gave the answer, Four of these 'Crime Dossiers' were published: Murder Off Miami Who Killed Robert Prentice The Malinsay Massacre and Herewith The Clues. In the 1960s his publishers were selling a million copies of his books per year: A small number of his books were made into films by Hammer of which the best known is *The Devil Rides Out* (book 1934 film 1968). His writing is very descriptive and in many works he manages to introduce his characters into real events while meeting real people. For example in the Roger Brook series the main character involves himself with Napoleon and Joséphine whilst being a spy for the Prime Minister William Pitt: Similarly in the Gregory Sallust series Sallust shares an evening meal with Hermann Göring. He also wrote non fiction works including accounts of the Russian Revolution and King Charles II and his autobiography: He was considered an authority on the supernatural satanism the practice of exorcism and black magic to all of which he was hostile. During his study of the paranormal though he joined the Ghost Club: Blavatsky the historian Maurice Magre the magician Isaac Bonewits and the palm reader Cheiro. Two weeks before his death in November 1977 Wheatley received conditional absolution from his old friend Cyril 'Bobby' Eastaugh the Bishop of Peterborough, His influence has declined partly due to difficulties in reprinting his works owing to copyright problems, Fifty two of Wheatley's novels were published posthumously in a set by Heron Books UK, More recently in April 2008 Dennis Wheatley's literary estate was acquired by media company Chorion, Reading de Richleau is a bit like the supernatural adventures of an aged James Bond: In this outing the Duke and his chums are called upon by British Intelligence to figure out how the Nazis are

gleaning covert information on British convoy deployments. The Duke eliminates all the possibilities and then assumes it must be a Nazi agent on the astral plane, He and Marie Lou (who was a bit innocuous in the last book) herself an accomplished spiritualist proceed to stake out a British warship and catch the Nazi spy red handed: After a rousing start however the book sort of sags in the middle when the Duke and friends meet up with a new ally and trace the sinister occult Nazi to Haiti. It took me quite a while to slog through the middle part of the book: Maybe it was the racism something I can usually overlook when reading period fiction, The final pages involve a penultimate astral showdown with the big bad though more abstract than the previous stuff. Thriller Historical Fiction Paranormal This started amazingly with the discovery that the Nazis are using occult spies to attack North Atlantic convoys, Genius plot idea well developed and convincingly told for an occult spy value of convincing: And then we take a sharp left turn into astonishing racism and I strongly recommend that nobody should read this book ever: It could actually have been good up to a certain point but it's amazing how racism and shitty plotting/writing go hand in hand. Almost as if retreating into hateful ignorance doesn't actually lead to imaginative achievement. Bonus points to DW for plagiarizing a super famous folk tale and huge chunks of one of his own other books: OTOH at least he let his imagination run wild while writing the bits that purport to be a factual history of Haiti oh no wait, I think the best thing here is to pretend I never read it and none of us ever speak of this again, Thriller Historical Fiction Paranormal In principle this is a good book with a great high-concept: World War II era espionage with a supernatural twist. In the flesh though the book wears several deep flaws that mar it or at least flavor it: While this element could have easily be halved or cut by two-thirds some of the pro-sex and not-quite-anti-but-almost-anti-Christian revisionism is interesting considering the time period: A country whose citizens were of a melanin-content that Hitler would have despised, And its dream logic is problematic at best with Wheatley unsure if the dreamscape is the real world with sort of an A. That would have been a much more effective end than the one we got. Thriller Historical Fiction Paranormal This is the third of Wheatley's Black Magic series that I have read: Unfortunately Strange Conflict has been the worst of the bunch. During the Blitz of the Second World War the British supply ships are being destroyed with eerie efficiency: The Duke De Richleau deduces that the Nazis are using Black Magic to intercept the ships' locations so that their U-boats can sink them: He gathers his usual team of friends and together they begin trying to find the evil spiritualist that is working for the Nazis and kill him. Unfortunately the execution of such a great premise sorely missed the mark, The Duke spends a good portion travelling in the astral plane to find the evil sorcerer and while it was interesting it seriously dragged. The villain is eventually located in Haiti and the heroes leave war-torn Britain for the tropics, (Again being that the novel was written during the Blitz and for people enduring the Blitz I'm sure it was a perfect escape for readers at that time:) There they encounter Voodoo and everything goes crashing downhill for me. I've praised Wheatley for his incredible research into religions and the occult, His level of detail and creating links between different beliefs is truly amazing: Wheatley embraced the dark hype of voodoo and ran with it. It was obvious he had done a good amount of research (probably all that had been available) but I was very disappointed with his use of it, What I couldn't get past was the incredible racism that persisted through the story. Being an older book I can look past quite a bit of outdated thinking. At one point Duke De Richleau says that the Anglos are the only people who can save the world, Wheatley can normally throw me for a few good loops but this time I found most of the twists rather tedious, There were some good ones but not enough to salvage the monotony of it. I'm very happy I accidentally skipped this book and read Gateway to Hell out of order otherwise I would have not read the following book, The version that I read was the Audible edition read by Nick Mercer. Mercer has read the other two Wheatley books and he did a fine job with what he had: My only criticism of his narration was that the voice of Marie Lou was different: Thriller Historical Fiction Paranormal I confess I have a particularly soft spot for this book. It was the first Dennis Wheatley story I ever read and it set me on a path of DW admiration that has stayed with me ever since: I realize that when reading him today there are certain things one has to look past. His class-consciousness with its obvious belief that aristocrats

are automatically braver and more resourceful than the poor, And to be fair this particular story has less of these failings than some of his works: The German navy are playing merry hell with the Atlantic convoys and if this isn't stopped Britain will have to surrender to the evil Hitler: The Duke and his team are called in and he soon comes to a jaw-dropping conclusion. The Nazis are obviously using magic to find out how to intercept the convoys. And right up until the final pages it looks as if the powers of evil will win out, In this book published in 1941 Britain was still an empire and its enemies were easy to distinguish: In this sense the book is a much better read than the Black Magic books from the 50s and 60s, On the other hand the wartime context makes the text much too didactic to be anything else than bad prose: Unfortunately this one wasn't nearly as good as The Forbidden Territory despite the fun magical element and Christopher Lee's amusing narration: The exposition was overwhelming — even by Wheatley's standards — and I maintain that Simon and Richard should've been a composite character from day one, Thriller Historical Fiction Paranormal Strange writing -- not a Wheatley classic: Thriller Historical Fiction Paranormal Second in the Black Magic series and ninth in the Duke de Richleau series, It begins after the Germans began bombing England at the start of World War II and after the French government has collapsed. This ARC was sent to me by NetGalley for an honest review: My TakeThe accepting nonchalance of the duke and Sir Pellinore interrupting their dinner to deal with the incendiary bombs cracked me up. Events in this first story do make it easier for the rest of Team de Richleau to buy in and help out: Although it doesn't mean that the duke is off the hook as he must again convince a nonbeliever of the existence of magic using such examples as Jesus Christ Lao-Tze St. His explanation of Jesus walking on water and that the Kingdom of God is within us is quite intriguing. There's a repeat of La Voisin and the Prince Borghese taking back his villa. I knew the swastika was an ancient symbol adopted by the Nazis but I don't think I've ever heard this explanation about it, De Richleau's explanation of baptism is encompassing on both sides: His explanation of reincarnation does make a lot of sense as does his explanation for why our dreams are so odd, He uses Jesus Christ as an example of choosing how one will live and/or die in one's last incarnations. And the Admiral's civilian dreaming is quite explicit oh là là! The captain's dreams are ahem also quite interesting. The prejudice about black men is still here and so very condescending. Although one particular black man does take us on a chase I would never want to experience, It does make me appreciate cellphones all the more and our current ease of air travel despite all the security problems we have. Although it still doesn't explain why they couldn't simply fly to Haiti from Bermuda: Why did they have to go up to New York City??Ooh Rex's dad plays mean when he points out the propaganda value of Rex's war injury, Saturday provides a synopsis of the slave rebellions on Haiti as well as why Haiti has not been able to prosper since she achieved independence: Jeez Simon's efforts to keep their enemy occupied are rewarded in the most horrible way as his companion's true identity is revealed, It is an adventure that forces de Richleau to consider his life and Pellinore is desperate enough to try anything: Anything will include a hurried flight to Haiti in pursuit of the Thing. Saturday and given aid for their injuries and respite for their bodies. The CharactersThe Monseigneur le Duke de Richleau Knight of the Most Exalted Order of the Golden Fleece a: Greyeyes is an elderly French exile art connoisseur and dilettante one can count on in all things. He has studied the Right Hand Path White Magic but realizes he has his doubts. Team de Richleau includes.....Simon Aron a director of a financial house in London. Rex Van Wyn a wealthy young man who enlisted in the Royal Air Force and is an ace airman who was shot down six months ago winning the D. His father Channock Van Ryn is a banker and runs The Chesapeake Banking and Trust Corporation. Richard was rejected as a fighter pilot so he's gone in for intensive farming at Cardinals Folly their place in Worcestershire; Fleur is with friends in Scotland. Jim is a gardener; Malin is their very loyal butler as well as Richard's valet; MacPherson is the head gardener. Sir Pellinore Gwaine-Cust a baronet is close to the War Cabinet; he certainly made a nice recovery from his early mistakes in the 1890s, Admiral and Captain Fennimere are the only ones who know the route the ships will take, Phillipa Ricardi had been a nurse but a bomb attack has left her mute: Marie Martineau is a local girl from Port-au-Prince who has been missing for some time, Her parents are quite definite that they had sent her to

the good Sisters of Marseilles. Our Black Joan of Arc is a Mambo who married her goat familiar Simalo. She was also the daughter of a crude peasant who became president General François Antoine Simon, Alfonse Rodin a member of the Free French Forces is his confederate: the Secte Rouge is a secret society that practices cannibalism. The Bourresouse are hunters sent out to find victims on the road, Voodoo is a religion brought over from Africa almost 400 years ago and has two pantheons of Loa gods: A Ba Moun (Give man) ceremony is a Voodoo practice similar to selling oneself to the devil but one becomes a Zombie instead, A Houngan is its priest who lives in a Hounfort a Voodoo temple with his family. Hounci are Voodoo adepts who passed the first degree of initiation; Canzos have passed the second degree, The Sabreur is the sword-bearer; the Drapeaux hold the flags, The Petro are good gods from Dahomey and deities of Health Fertility and Sexual Virility with Dambala as its God of Gods: De Richleau makes a good point about the sexual aspect of Voodoo in that it is an object for worship [and the] one pleasure which is within the reach of them all. Erzulie Frieda is a goddess in her own right a Venus of a Mulatto who insists on an unending string of lovers, There are seven planes or levels of consciousness: Earth is the lowest then the normal sleep plane on up, A poltergeist is an elemental which is why they can perform physical acts as opposed to those doing astral travel, The TitleThe title is all about the Strange Conflict between the duke and his friends and the Thing spying for Germany. P.He invented a number of board games including Invasion. Astral travel and occult doings among British high society. I picked this up along with The Devil Rides Out. I'm not sure why I had such trouble. Who knew. I mean. These are the bad guys? Hell. It also suffers from uneven information dumps.R. game going on or something else entirely. The Devil Rides out was very enjoyable. Gateway to Hell was OK but nothing great.The setup is very good.However I can look past that.Prejudices and stereotypes aside the book was boring. Sorry.Got through two thirds so I won't count it as a DNF. Wheatley just has much better stuff. Then there's the duke's spying. Francis of Assisi Marcus Aurelius Herod Cesare Borgia etc. It seems he prefers the feminine form. And Simon pulls Phillipa in to do her part. Luckily Team de Richleau is rescued by Dr.k.a. Max is the duke's man.F.C. for gallantry. Captain Carruthers is in charge of the convoy. Her father is sending her to an uncle in Jamaica.HaitiDoctor Saturday comes to their rescue. Celestina a.k.a.The Thing is the astral enemy. The Jap is a judo expert. Cochon Gris a.k.a. It's a nasty nasty bargain. Mah-Lah-Sah is the Guardian of the Door Sill. Baron Samedi. A Bocor is a priest who specializes in devil-worship. Baron Carrefour is the Lord of the Roads and Travel. A Mambo is a priestess.Pan is a Greek god of laughter dancing and lovemaking. The Left Hand Path is another phrase for black magic. A Magister Templi is a high level of mastery