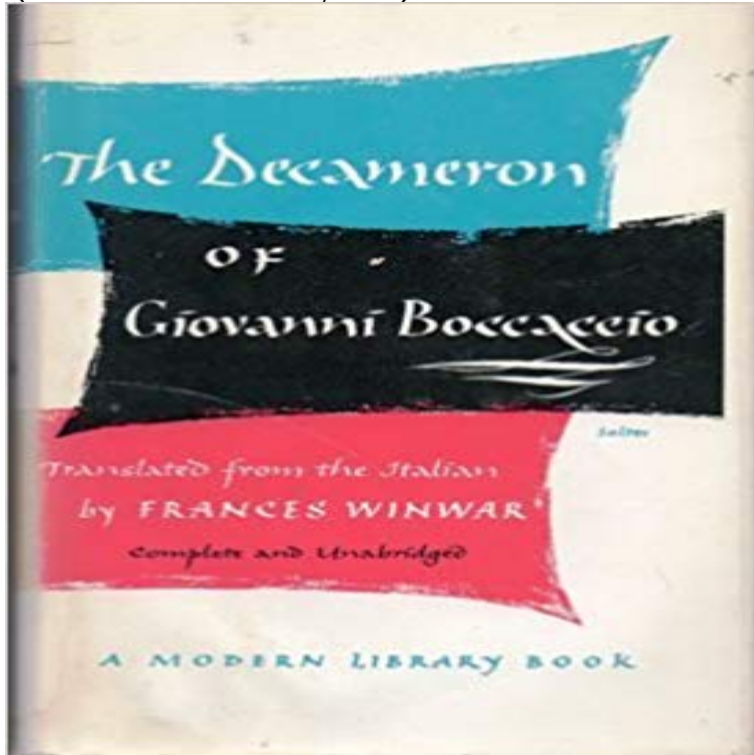


The Decameron of Giovanni Boccaccio (Complete and Unabridged) (Modern Library 71)



During the time of the Black Death in Italy a group of seven young women and three young men flee from plague-ridden Florence to a deserted villa in the countryside of Fiesole for two weeks. To pass the evenings, every member of the party tells a story each night, except for one day per week for chores, and the holy days in which they do no work at all, resulting in ten nights of storytelling over the course of two weeks. Thus, by the end of the fortnight they have told 100 stories. Each of the ten characters is charged as King or Queen of the company for one of the ten days in turn. This charge extends to choosing the theme of the stories for that day, and all but two days have topics assigned: examples of the power of fortune; examples of the power of human will; love tales that end tragically; love tales that end happily; clever replies that save the speaker; tricks that women play on men; tricks that people play on each other in general; examples of virtue. Classic work, worthy of a read and a re-read. New York: The Modern Library, 1955. 5 x 7.25 tall; xxi, 666pp. with five pages of Authors Conclusion.

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