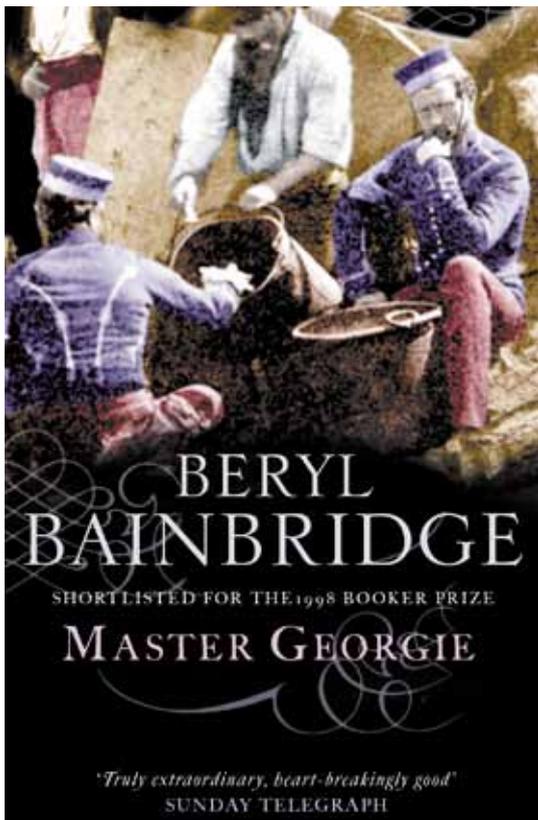




Reader's Guide



Master Georgie Beryl Bainbridge

Abacus
Price £8.99

www.themanbookerprize.com



Master Georgie

When Master Georgie – George Hardy, surgeon and photographer – sets off from the cold squalor of Victorian Liverpool for the heat and glitter of the Bosphorus to offer his services in the Crimea, there straggles behind him a small caravan of devoted followers; Myrtle, his adoring adoptive sister; lapsed geologist Dr Potter; and photographer's assistant and sometime fire-eater Pompey Jones, all of them driven onwards through a rising tide of death and disease by a shared and mysterious guilt.

Combining a breathtaking eye for beauty with a visceral understanding of mortality, Beryl Bainbridge exposes her enigmatic hero as tenderly and unsparingly as she reveals the filth and misery of war, and creates a novel of luminous depth and extraordinary intensity.

Discussion points

Chance and fate are key themes in *Master Georgie*. How did chance and fate play a part in the lives of the four key characters?

Master Georgie is divided into six chapters that are called 'plates', referring to the photography sub-theme of the novel. What role does the camera lens play in the story, what is the significance of the things it captures and those that it doesn't?

The story has three narrators; Myrtle, Mr Potter and Pompey Jones, what role do each of the characters play in the narrative? Did you find one character more believable than the others?

Do you think you ever got to really know the characters?

To what extent do you agree with this review of *Master Georgie*; 'Another masterly exploration by an author at the peak of her form ...She was always good at funny dialogue and acute observation of the oddities of human behaviour, but her recent historical explorations have given full reign to her startling powers of description ... Bainbridge has never written better' *Daily Telegraph*.

Background information

Link to the Man Booker Prize website
<http://themanbookerprize.com>

Link to the publisher's website
<http://www.littlebrown.co.uk>