

George du Maurier
TRILBY

Trilby

by George du Maurier (1834-1896)

Trilby, published in 1894, fits into the gothic horror genre that was undergoing a revival in the late 19th century, and was one of the most popular novels of its time, perhaps the second best selling novel of the fin-de-siècle after Bram Stoker's *Dracula*.

The story of the poor artist's model, Trilby O'Ferrall, transformed into a diva under the spell of the evil musical genius Svengali, created a sensation. Soap, songs, dances, toothpaste, and Trilby, Florida, were all named for the heroine, and a type of soft felt hat with an indented crown (worn in the London stage production of a dramatization of the novel) was dubbed a trilby.

The plot inspired Gaston Leroux's 1910 potboiler *Phantom of the Opera* and the innumerable works derived from it, and introduced the phrase "in the altogether" (meaning "completely unclothed") to the English language. (Wikipedia)

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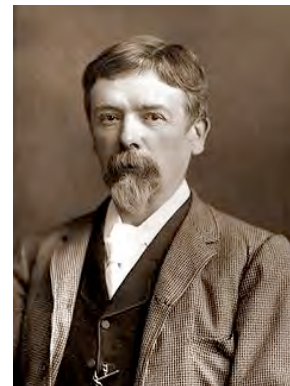
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