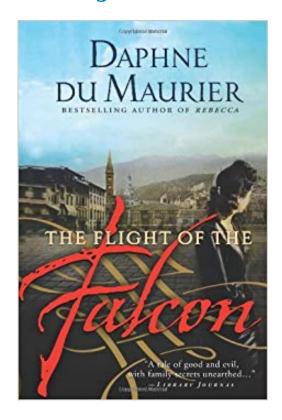
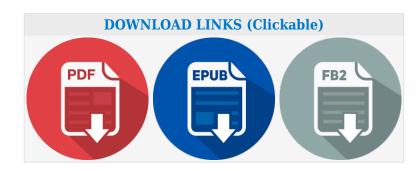
# The Flight of the Falcon by Daphne du Maurier





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A MASTERPIECE OF HYPNOTIC SUSPENSE from the bestselling author of Rebecca "In du Maurier's fiction, she unflinchingly exposed hard truths." -Times of London

Master storyteller Daphne du Maurier, bestselling author of Rebecca, conjures a chilling tale in which the line between good and evil is blurred and suspicions run rampant. An ever-charming Italian courier, Armino Fabbio finds his life wildly shaken up when a mysterious murder compels him to return to his birthplace Ruffano to investigate the victim's identity.

Haunted by its violent past and a sinister former duke known as The Falcon, his home is embroiled in scandal and unrest as justice is sought in deadly ways. At the center of the controversy is someone Armino never could have fathomed, pulling him into the heart of the conflict and revealing dark family secrets and the true selves of those closest to him.



# Reviews of the The Flight of the Falcon by Daphne du Maurier

### **Zodama**

I love Daphne du Maurier, but this was not my favorite one of her novels. It's a strange story that makes me wonder how she ever thought of it. BUT, I finished it and that says a lot. My motto regarding books is that life is too short and there are too many great books out there to chug along to the end of an unenjoyable read. So it's not bad. Her writing, plotting and characterizations are typical du Maurier, it's just that the story itself is oddly ungrounded. If you love du Maurier, I'd say read it and see what you think. If you've never read her before, I'd start with Rebecca, Jamaica Inn, My Cousin Rachel, or The House on the Strand

# Gaxaisvem

Armino Fabbio is a thirty-two-year-old courier in Genoa. He is short (at least shorter than most men), baby-faced and pleasant enough. His work at Sunshine Tours provides him a satisfactory if predictable life. But all of it comes to an end when he spots a peasant woman on the street. There's nothing unusual about a peasant roaming aimlessly on the streets of Rome, but this woman is his former servant Martha. Her death follows her unexpected reappearance, and Fabbio, afraid of police interrogation, flees to his old hometown of Ruffano. This leads to unexpected events. His new job as assistant at a university library, the same university where his late father had once been the superintendent, provides him a temporary position at the school. There he meets some interesting characters, including students from the new Commerce and Economics curriculum. He also gets reacquainted with the past. His brother Aldo, once presumed dead, is now a highly respected professor and leader of a rather strange cult. Aldo is also in charge of an annual festival. This year he intends to reenact the five-hundred-year-old legend of Duke Claudio, known as The Falcon, and he wants to make the festival as lifelike as possible. In a series of twists and turns, Armino discovers just how fantasy and reality, good and evil, play part in his past and present.

At first, The Flight of the Falcon is rather dull. It starts out well, but the storyline is very slow-paced and you have to have some patience with it. It is nevertheless a fascinating novel. Character study is big in this story. The author develops the psychological aspects of the characters so well that their complexity is wonderful. I won't discuss what these complexities are, for that would ruin the fun of reading it for yourself. Another great thing about this book is the atmosphere. The portrait of The Temptation of Christ (which I think isn't based on a real portrait) and its implications play a major role in the story, only as backdrop. It is, in truth, the main theme in this book. The beautiful descriptions of Italy, deep character study, and the sinister and suspenseful plot turn this into an amazing gothic tale. I think this is one of Daphne du Maurier's most accomplished if underrated efforts, a reminder of why I've enjoyed her suspense novels the most. (Her other novels are great and not to be missed though.) So what at first was a near miss to me became a fascinating and unputdownable read. This would cover a number of book club discussions. If you love Daphne du Maurier, then you cannot miss this book.

## **DireRaven**

I'm seventy four years old and have read many book such as this. This one was recommended by my young grand son. I

imagine he thought it would be good reading. For myself, I am aware of the situations in history that went on many years ago. When I ordered this book, I had no idea what it was all about. I did enjoy the story itself of Calico.

I haven't received my RealPad leather case yet so I can't comment on whether It's good or not.

#### Dikus

Gripping story with surprise ending. The characters are vibrant and the scenery brilliantly painted in the skilled hands of Daphne du Maurier.

### Road.to sliver

doesn't really hold up through time.

# Gavinranadar

The death of an old woman on the streets of Rome causes a young man whose family was torn asunder by the chaos of WWII to return to the town of his birth, where his older brother, long thought dead, seems to be using his power and influence to inflame the passions of the local youth in a misguided effort to reenact a traumatic event from medieval times.

Daphne du Maurier's novel is beautifully written and benefits greatly from insightful psychological portraits of its characters and a magnificent evocation of Italy in the 60s. However, this book is also a thriller, and when I blind myself to its strengths, I find that du Maurier depends upon wild coincidence at almost every turn to move the plot forward. This prevents it from being entirely satisfying.

# **Manris**

Du Maurier does a good job of moving the reader from the calm of a Roman tourist guide with a typical group of tourists to the countryside wherein a gripping intrigue ensues. Fabio, the tour guide, was seperated early in life from his brother, Aldo Donato. Aldo was thought to have been killed during World War I when his plane was shot down. Fabio's father had died earlier and his mother, who had run out of funds, took up with German officers as a matter of expediency. Fabio's mother dies of cancer and he becomes a tour leader in Rome given he speaks 4 different languages. One night, he sees a woman sitting on the stairs of the church in need of funds. He gives her some lira and when morning comes around, the woman is found dead. Fabio thinks he'd best skip town in case his name is mentioned as a possible suspect and with that..... a captivating story takes place with at least one red herring to mislead the reader. Fabio is fairly certain he knew who the woman was - his old nanny but he needs to travel to his birthplace to find out and that is where this story takes place.

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