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THE GREAT IMPERSONATION

E. Phillips Oppenheim



Mendoza

The Famous Secret Service Novel

THE GREAT IMPERSONATION

E. PHILLIPS OPPENHEIM



PAN BOOKS LTD : LONDON

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About this book



THE GREAT IMPERSONATION is one of E. Phillips Oppenheim's best tales. It will keep you guessing, but it is not a crime story; it will thrill you, but it is not the usual type of 'thriller'; it is a love story, but it is not a 'romance.' Sir Everard Dominey, who has wandered in Africa after leaving England under suspicion of murder, is rescued by a party of Germans, one of whom, Baron Leopold von Ragastein, has been a school-friend of his and physically bears a remarkable resemblance to him. Von Ragastein is instructed by Berlin to go to England impersonating Dominey. Complications ensue, both in London and at the Dominey seat in Norfolk, where Sir Everard's wife has been living, mentally unbalanced, ever since the day when her husband fought with a man who was passionately in love with her before her marriage and whose ghost (the local people believe) still haunts the wood where he was killed. The prospect of war between Britain and Germany looms large. The plot grows more and more exciting, and events both in London and in Norfolk lead to an astonishing climax for which even the most astute reader will probably be unprepared.

Even before he left school at Leicester to enter his father's business, E. Phillips Oppenheim had started to write a novel. Though rejected by several publishers, it was in due course successful, and he began to earn a good income from his stories, though he was nearly 40 before he could break away completely from commercial life. As *The Great Impersonation* and other spy stories indicate, he took a leading part in rousing the public to awareness of the menace of German militarism. He lived at first in Norfolk, then on the French Riviera. The sales of his multitudinous novels have been enormous, surpassing those of Edgar Wallace. He died in 1946 at the age of 80.

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