



The Mask of the Prophet: The Extraordinary Fictions of Jules Verne

Andrew Martin

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This provocative new study contends that Jules Verne was indeed more than just a writer of science fiction or harmless fantasies for children. Placing him squarely within the center of a strong literary tradition, Martin convincingly shows that a recurrent narrative, describing the strange destiny of a masked prophet who revolts against an empire, runs throughout Verne's *Voyages extraordinaires*. This theme, Martin argues, illuminates the paradoxes of realism and invention, repression and transgression, and imperialism and anarchy. Verne emerges not only as a key to the political and literary imagination of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, but as a model for fiction in general.



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