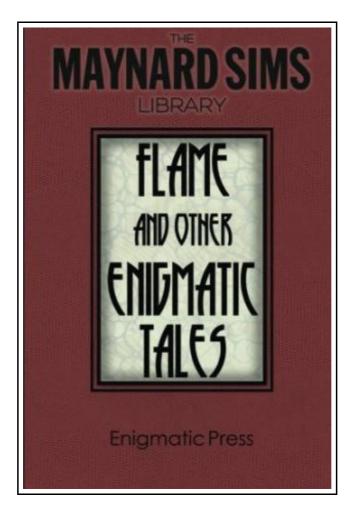
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Reviews

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(Shyanne Senger)

FLAME AND OTHER ENIGMATIC TALES: THE MAYNARD SIMS LIBRARY, VOL. 8



Createspace, United States, 2014. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 229 x 152 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.Ghost stories and tales of the uncanny The veteran writing partnership of Len Maynard and Mick Sims. While there s nothing new about such teamwork, especially in the field of ghostly/horror fiction, it is quite unusual nowadays. As a novella Double Act works rather well, especially in evoking the spirit of old-style music hall entertainers. The plot is well-constructed and the finale, following a series of revelations about Charlie Hass private life, is effective. The first of the short stories, Serenity, is altogether different in feel. A rather ineffectual man, Jona Lewis, takes early retirement and finds himself at a bit of a loose end. Then he bumps into an old friend who invites him for a stay in the country. This a very traditional opening, of course, but it leads to a far from conventional denouement. This reader was certainly foxed but also satisfied by a conclusion that shuns shocks in favour of a strange, but oddly moving, revelation. Different again is Jealousy, in which the authors return to showbusiness, but this time in a modern tale of black magic. Reading it, I was reminded of the Brian Clemens series Thriller, which screened in the early Seventies. Like the best of those dramas, Jealousy proceeds from the mundane to the truly weird via a series of carefully calculated incidents. The finale, which takes place in St Paul s Cathedral, has a distinctly cinematic feel. Assignment is part of a series of stories about Department 18, a kind of government dirty tricks outfit dedicated to the occult and/or paranormal. Perhaps because I ve never read any of the early Department 18 tales I found this one...



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