



A MENTOR BOOK

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The
Seven
Storey
Mountain
by
Thomas
Merton

Author of
*Conjectures of
A Guilty Bystander*

The autobiography of a man who led a full and worldly life and then, at the age of 26, entered a Trappist monastery.

*A Signet Book
Complete & Unabridged*

Born: 31 January 1915
Died: 10 December 1968

#125

Retreat From The World

This is an extraordinary book. It is the fascinating, intensely honest confession of an attractive, gifted young man, who at the age of 26 gave up the pleasures of a stimulating worldly life for the isolation of a Trappist monastery.

Son of prosperous, middle-class parents, Thomas Merton spent his childhood in England, France and the United States. As a student at Columbia University he was popular and successful. He was interested in literature and modern art and was an enthusiastic participant in impromptu jazz sessions. But a burning concern with the problems of modern life and a desire to find his personal salvation eventually led to his complete withdrawal from the excitement and confusion of the world.

Today, he is an ordained priest, Father M. Louis O.C.S.O., in the Trappist order at Gethsemani, Kentucky, where this book was written, and one of the country's most notable writers and poets.

Merton spares no one, least of all himself, in his candid analysis of his evolution from a campus sophisticate to a Trappist monk. How he coped with the temptations and obstacles in his path, his picture of confused youth in the depression years and his fascinating account of life in a monastery make reading this book a unique experience for readers of every faith.

"It deals . . . not with what happens *to* a man, but with what happens *inside* him—that is, inside his soul. It should hold the attention of Catholic and non-Catholic alike."

—Clifton Fadiman

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*The Seven Storey
Mountain*

by

THOMAS MERTON

"FOR I TELL YOU THAT GOD IS ABLE OF THESE STONES
TO RAISE UP CHILDREN TO ABRAHAM."



A MENTOR BOOK
NEW AMERICAN LIBRARY

TIMES MIRROR

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by
Thomas
Merton

Candid, revealing and utterly honest, this is the biography of a young man who lived an exciting, worldly life

until the age of twenty-six, when he entered a Trappist monastery. Its sensitive revelation of a deep spiritual experience has made it one of the bestselling books of our time.

"Deeply impresses the mind and the heart..."

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"The autobiography of Thomas Merton is a Twentieth Century form of the *Confessions of St. Augustine*."

—*Bishop Fulton J. Sheen*

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—*Chicago Tribune*

"It should hold the attention of Catholic and non-Catholic alike."

—*Clifton Fadiman*