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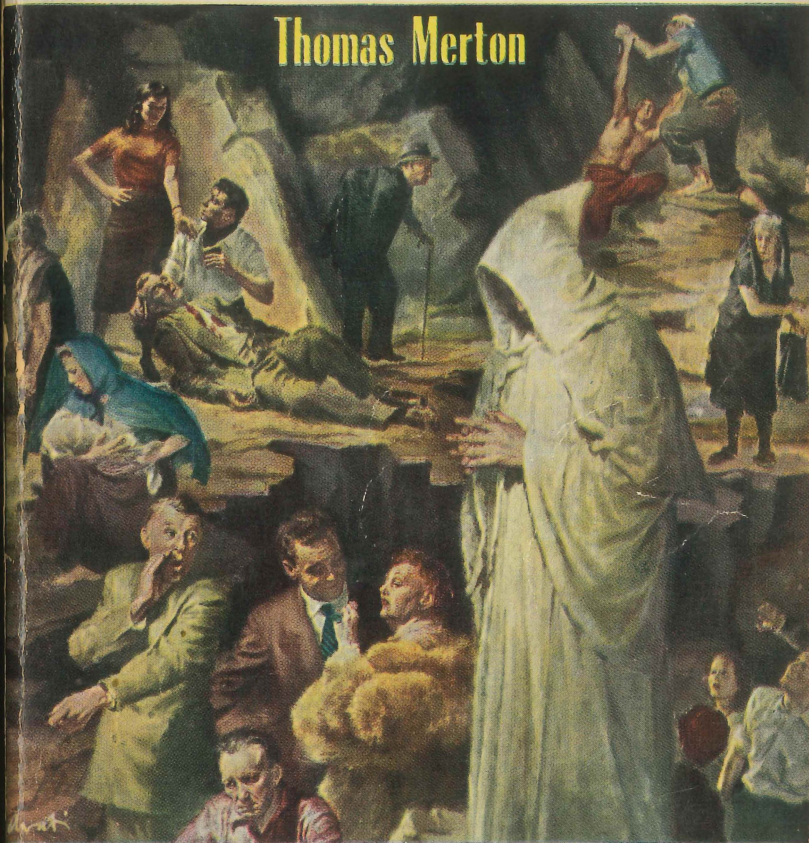


A WIDELY ACCLAIMED BESTSELLER

The Revealing Experience of
A Man Who Withdrew from the World

THE Seven Storey Mountain

Thomas Merton



A SIGNET TRIPLE VOLUME

Complete and Unabridged

Cover illustration by James Avati,
article on it by Patricia A. Burton

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 SIGNET BOOK

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