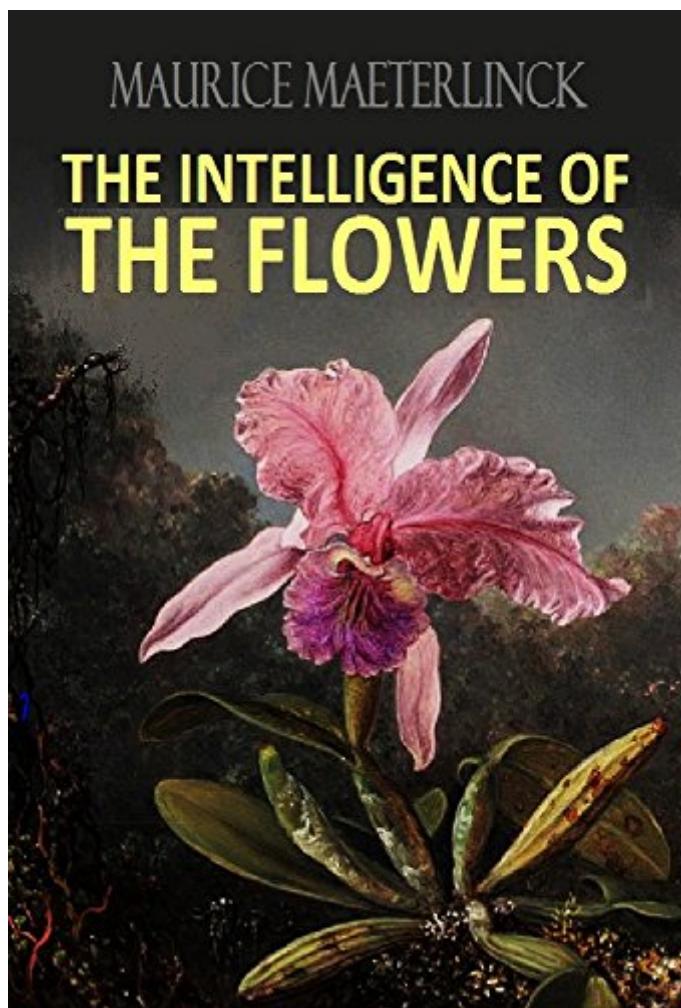


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The Intelligence Of The Flowers (1907)



Synopsis

Maurice Bernard Maeterlinck (1862 – 1949) was essayist who was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1911. In 1907 Maeterlinck published the book "The Intelligence of the Flowers." The eyes of naturelovers will brighten at sight of the new volume by M. Maeterlinck, which he calls "The Intelligence of the Flowers," and intends in some sort as a complement to the essay on bees. The title suggests such endless adaptations of root, stem, and leaf, as well as blossom, that disappointment awaits the reader unless heed is given to the author's warning that he wishes "merely to recall a few facts known to every botanist," and has "no intention of reviewing all the proofs of intelligence which the plants give us." He confines himself almost entirely to the delicate arrangements for cross-fertilization, describing them with as great scientific accuracy as if he were not a poet. But the charm of the book lies nevertheless in the fact that he is a poet. Life is to him a great inclusive mystery in which flowers have a share comparable to that of human beings. "It would really seem as though ideas came to the flowers in the same way as to us. The flowers grope in the same darkness, encounter the same obstacles, the same ill-will, in the same unknown. They have the same laws, the same -disillusions, the same slow and difficult triumphs."

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