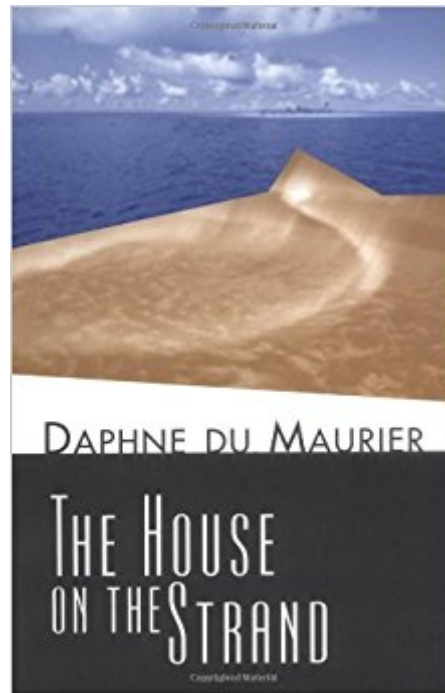




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# The House On The Strand



## Synopsis

In this haunting tale, Daphne du Maurier takes a fresh approach to time travel. A secret experimental concoction, once imbibed, allows you to return to the fourteenth century. There is only one catch: if you happen to touch anyone while traveling in the past you will be thrust instantaneously to the present. Magnus Lane, a University of London chemical researcher, asks his friend Richard Young and Young's family to stay at Kilmarth, an ancient house set in the wilds near the Cornish coast. Here, Richard drinks a potion created by Magnus and finds himself at the same spot where he was moments earlier—though it is now the fourteenth century. The effects of the drink wear off after several hours, but it is wildly addictive, and Richard cannot resist traveling back and forth in time. Gradually growing more involved in the lives of the early Cornish manor lords and their ladies, he finds the presence of his wife and stepsons a hindrance to his new-found experience. Richard eventually finds emotional refuge with a beautiful woman of the past trapped in a loveless marriage, but when he attempts to intervene on her behalf the results are brutally terrifying for the present. Echoing the great fantastic stories of H. P. Lovecraft and Edgar Allan Poe, *The House on the Strand* is a masterful yarn of history, romance, horror, and suspense that will grip the reader until the last surprising twist.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"The House on the Strand is prime du Maurier. . . . She holds her characters close to reality; the past she creates is valid, and her skill in finessing the time shifts is enough to make one want to try

a little of the brew himself." – New York Times

In addition to *The Scapegoat* and *The House on the Strand*, Dame Daphne du Maurier (1907-1989) wrote more than twenty-five acclaimed novels, short stories, and plays, including *Rebecca*, *Jamaica Inn*, *Frenchman's Creek*, and "The Birds."

As a fan of Daphne du Maurier I'm always inclined to give at least 4 stars but that said, I've yet to read a book of hers that I've not enjoyed or wasn't well written. I'm always amazed at how she can seamlessly combine different eras in time that at the outset of the book I think she won't be able to do. I think what I enjoy most about her writing is that the characters come completely alive to the point that you almost feel they are in the same room as you. This story is about a man who takes an experimental drug and goes back in time, As the story progresses, his addiction increases and the side effects become more apparent. He just has to keep going back one more time to find out what happened next! He wants to live more in the other world than the real world and sometimes confuses the two which is obviously having a negative effect on the people around him - a fairly typical story of addiction I should imagine. The problem is that even though the reader can see what's happening and want him to stop we too want him to go back to find out what happens next! We don't get to know Dick's wife or step-sons very well but I get the impression they are good people and if Dick wasn't so addicted to his other life he could give the marriage a chance and be happy. One problem I had with this book is that lots of the characters had similar names (or the same) and I had to keep going back to work out who was who. Could really have done with the x-ray function on Kindle on this one.

I couldn't with any certainty say that this book is on par with other books I've read by the author over the years, but I did end up enjoying it far more than I initially thought I would. The beginning was a little slow to gather momentum but once it did it was difficult to put aside. I loved the setting of Cornwall and the descriptions of past and present. The overall "sinister aspect" was well done, this was compounded by the fact that Richard in his travels was an observer to events unfolding around him. He was "powerless" to act in any way on the outcome. The tug of war for Richard's loyalty, affection between the manipulative Magnus and Vita was believable and did keep the tension ratcheted. I found some of the relationships, characters in the medieval period to be a tad confusing at first, wasn't quite sure where they all fitted into the story overall. I didn't feel as though they were as well presented, or as developed as the present day characters. This is written with the author's

readable style and delivery and if you are a Du Maurier fan, then it certainly is a "must read".

Read this book back in 1970. It has haunted me for all of these years. I am especially reminded of the story when I listen to Gordon Lightfoot's "If You Could Read My Mind", which was popular on the radio at the same time I read it. I have the CD and was prompted to buy the book again now. I read all of DuMaurier's books over the years. What a great writer!

I read this book as a teenager, a long time ago. I knew the general story, but so many details had left me. It's a very original story, very well told, especially if you enjoy the time travel genre.

In the mid 1970's my Reading Lab teacher got this book for me ( I was about 14 I believe) as she noticed that most of the books I read were British. The House on the Strand mesmerized me and after all these years I still love it. A man uses a secret experimental drug given to him by his older friend and is transformed back in Time to the 14000 and the people and events of that Time period. He soon finds the Past more interesting and is draw emotionally to the people and is less interested in his wife and step children and "their World" of the Present. Du Maurier has done the research to Blend Fact & Fiction into a compelling story with a Twist Ending. In the 90's on a trip to Cornwall UK I was able to stay at an Inn directly across from the Church & it's graveyard and was able to see many of the places that are on the Map in the book of present day Tywardreath//Par /Fowey Cornwall UK. Even though I have a well worn paperback copy of this book and the Unabridged on Book on Cassette I wanted to have it on my Kindle for travels- it is like an Old Friend to revisit.

I enjoyed this book. It was a fast read and I liked her play on time travel. Considering how long ago this was published I found it rather fresh. The character development was shallow but didn't detract from the story.

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