



# The Great Swindle

By Pierre Lemaître

Download now

Read Online →

## The Great Swindle By Pierre Lemaître

The year is 1918, the war on the Western Front all but over. An ambitious officer, Lieutenant Henry D'Aulnay-Pradelle, sends two soldiers over the top and then surreptitiously shoots them in the back to incite his men to attack the German lines.

When another of D'Aulnay-Pradelle's soldiers, Albert Maillard, reaches the bodies and discovers how they died, the lieutenant shoves him into a shell hole to silence him. Albert is rescued by fellow soldier, the artist Edouard Péricourt, who takes a bullet in the face. The war ends and both men recover, but Edouard is permanently disfigured, and fakes his death to prevent his family from seeing him as a cripple. In gratitude for Edouard's rescue, Albert becomes the injured man's companion and caregiver.

Finding that the postwar gratitude for the soldiers' service is nothing more than lip-service to an empty idea, the two men scramble to survive, ultimately devising a scam to take money for never-to-be-built war memorials from small towns. Meanwhile, Lieutenant Pradelle has married Edouard's sister Madeline and is running a scam of his own that involves the exhumation of war victims.

In this sorrowful, heart-searching novel, the interwoven lives of these three men create a tapestry of the human condition as seen through the lens of war, revealing brutality and compassion, heroism and cowardice, in equal measure.

 [Download The Great Swindle ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The Great Swindle ...pdf](#)

# The Great Swindle

*By Pierre Lemaitre*

## The Great Swindle By Pierre Lemaitre

The year is 1918, the war on the Western Front all but over. An ambitious officer, Lieutenant Henry D'Aulnay-Pradelle, sends two soldiers over the top and then surreptitiously shoots them in the back to incite his men to attack the German lines.

When another of D'Aulnay-Pradelle's soldiers, Albert Maillard, reaches the bodies and discovers how they died, the lieutenant shoves him into a shell hole to silence him. Albert is rescued by fellow soldier, the artist Edouard Péricourt, who takes a bullet in the face. The war ends and both men recover, but Edouard is permanently disfigured, and fakes his death to prevent his family from seeing him as a cripple. In gratitude for Edouard's rescue, Albert becomes the injured man's companion and caregiver.

Finding that the postwar gratitude for the soldiers' service is nothing more than lip-service to an empty idea, the two men scramble to survive, ultimately devising a scam to take money for never-to-be-built war memorials from small towns. Meanwhile, Lieutenant Pradelle has married Edouard's sister Madeline and is running a scam of his own that involves the exhumation of war victims.

In this sorrowful, heart-searching novel, the interwoven lives of these three men create a tapestry of the human condition as seen through the lens of war, revealing brutality and compassion, heroism and cowardice, in equal measure.

## The Great Swindle By Pierre Lemaitre Bibliography

- Rank: #557357 in Books
- Brand: Maclehose Press Quercus
- Published on: 2016-09-06
- Released on: 2016-09-06
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.25" h x 1.25" w x 5.50" l, .0 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 464 pages

 [Download The Great Swindle ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The Great Swindle ...pdf](#)

## Editorial Review

Review

**Winner of the Prix Goncourt**

**Winner the International Dagger Award for Best Crime Novel**

"Mr. Lemaitre's background in crime fiction shows through in the intricate plotting and suspenseful pacing of *The Great Swindle*, which at times reads like a thriller. Its characters harbor so many secrets that part of the enjoyment in the book comes from seeing how the author plans to disentangle them." *Sarah Lyall, The New York Times*

"Lemaitre's tale is carefully researched, and most of the story's value lies in its historical authenticity....the battlefield and hospital scenes convey Lemaitre's mastery of imagery." *Kirkus Reviews*

"[An] assured, somber exploration of post-WWI French society...Lemaitre captures the venal capitalism of the postwar period...Despite his unscrupulous scheme, Édouard proves impossible to dislike. His determination to play a great trick on the society that betrayed him is infectious, and readers cannot help rooting for his plans as they reach their dark, bizarrely joyous fruition." *Publishers Weekly*

"A fast-paced tale, filled with twists and turns, following a mischievous, disillusioned view of post-war France."

*Astrid de Larminat, Figaro*

"A masterly epic of post-war France, where impostures triumph and capitalists grow rich from the ruins." *Macha Séry, Le Monde*

"You feel the author's indignation . . . Who really profits from war? Crooks, the vengeful, and frauds. *The Great Swindle* is political as much as it is picaresque."

*Christine Ferniot, Telerama*

"A dark, burning requiem delivered in glorious prose that is as tough and effective as a punch in the face . . . It will leave you stunned."

*François Busnel, Express*

"Its themes connect elegantly with its action . . . a striking critique of a grieving nation's desire to prettify its past."

*Times Literary Supplement*

**"Pierre Lemaitre breaks the elitist mould with passion, clarity, and originality . . . moving, angry, intelligent--and compelling."**

*Marcel Berlins, The Times*

**"You'll be horrified and angered, yet often amused at this clever look at war's aftermath."**

**?Weekend Sport**

About the Author

**Pierre Lemaitre** was born in Paris in 1956. He worked for many years as a teacher of literature and now devotes his time to writing novels and screenplays. In 2013 he was awarded the Prix Goncourt, France's most prestigious literary award, for *Au Revoir Là-Haut*.

**Frank Wynne** is a translator from French and Spanish. His translations include works by Michel Houellebecq, Marcelo Figueras's IFFP-shortlisted *Kamchatka*, and the Commandant Camille Verhoeven trilogy (*Alex*, *Irène*, and *Camille*), by Pierre Lemaitre.

## **Users Review**

**From reader reviews:**

**Irene Vaughan:**

This *The Great Swindle* tend to be reliable for you who want to be described as a successful person, why. The reason why of this *The Great Swindle* can be among the great books you must have is actually giving you more than just simple examining food but feed an individual with information that might be will shock your previous knowledge. This book is actually handy, you can bring it almost everywhere and whenever your conditions throughout the e-book and printed kinds. Beside that this *The Great Swindle* forcing you to have an enormous of experience such as rich vocabulary, giving you demo of critical thinking that we understand it useful in your day activity. So , let's have it and luxuriate in reading.

**Ruby Carter:**

People live in this new morning of lifestyle always aim to and must have the spare time or they will get large amount of stress from both lifestyle and work. So , once we ask do people have free time, we will say absolutely indeed. People is human not just a robot. Then we inquire again, what kind of activity are you experiencing when the spare time coming to you actually of course your answer will probably unlimited right. Then do you ever try this one, reading books. It can be your alternative inside spending your spare time, typically the book you have read is definitely *The Great Swindle*.

**Sherry Clark:**

Do you really one of the book lovers? If yes, do you ever feeling doubt when you find yourself in the book store? Attempt to pick one book that you find out the inside because don't assess book by its protect may doesn't work this is difficult job because you are scared that the inside maybe not as fantastic as in the outside look likes. Maybe you answer may be *The Great Swindle* why because the wonderful cover that make you consider with regards to the content will not disappoint you. The inside or content is fantastic as the outside or perhaps cover. Your reading 6th sense will directly assist you to pick up this book.

**Timothy Wingo:**

You will get this The Great Swindle by check out the bookstore or Mall. Just viewing or reviewing it might to be your solve difficulty if you get difficulties for ones knowledge. Kinds of this publication are various. Not only by simply written or printed but also can you enjoy this book by simply e-book. In the modern era just like now, you just looking because of your mobile phone and searching what your problem. Right now, choose your personal ways to get more information about your guide. It is most important to arrange you to ultimately make your knowledge are still change. Let's try to choose correct ways for you.

**Download and Read Online The Great Swindle By Pierre Lemaitre  
#3GTRIP2C59E**

## **Read The Great Swindle By Pierre Lemaitre for online ebook**

The Great Swindle By Pierre Lemaitre Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read The Great Swindle By Pierre Lemaitre books to read online.

### **Online The Great Swindle By Pierre Lemaitre ebook PDF download**

**The Great Swindle By Pierre Lemaitre Doc**

**The Great Swindle By Pierre Lemaitre Mobipocket**

**The Great Swindle By Pierre Lemaitre EPub**