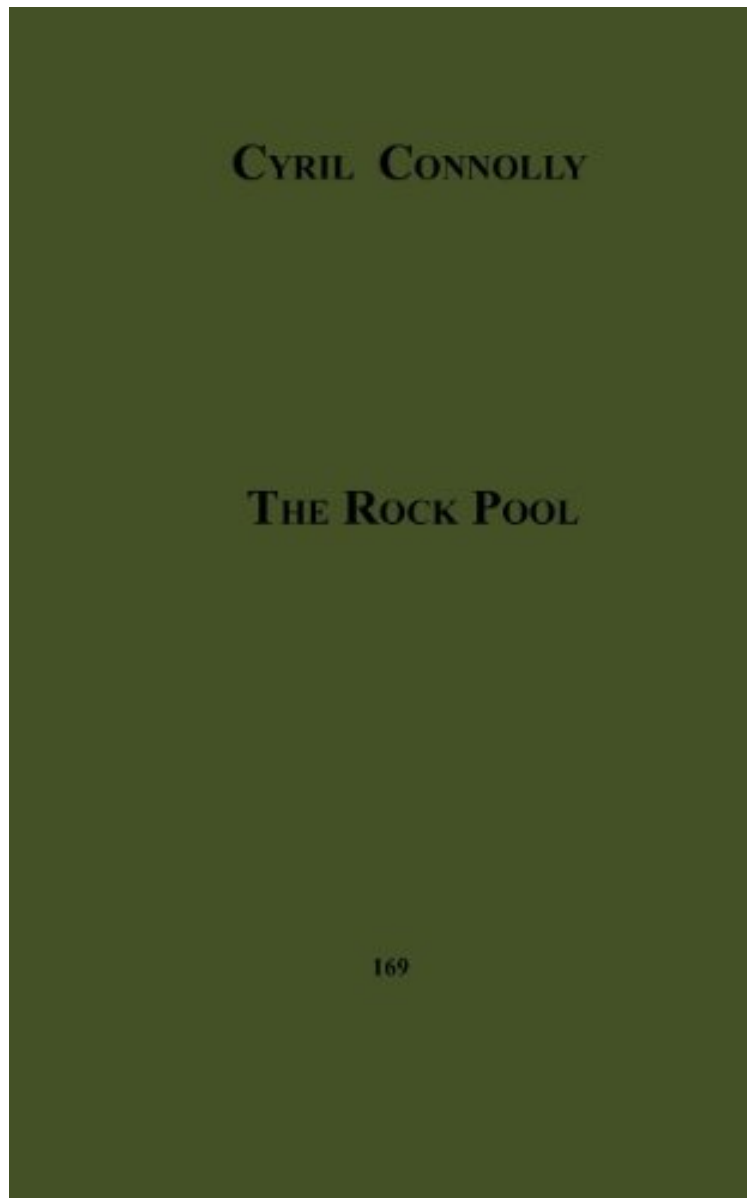


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## The Rock Pool

*Cyril Connolly*

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**Cyril Connolly : The Rock Pool** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Rock Pool:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Four StarsBy Susan DeVecchisGood.13 of 15 people found the following review helpful. Why the fuss?By D. P. BirkettSet in the 1930's in the south of France. An obnoxious, conventional, and relatively wealthy, young Englishman encounters a group of unconventional cosmopolitan artists

and bohemians. He disapproves of them at first and then becomes seduced by their life-style. They take his money and leave him. He degenerates into alcoholism. It's a mildly entertaining amateurish attempt to imitate early Aldous Huxley, Evelyn Waugh and Norman Douglas. The shadow of Hitler looms. Some of the writing is so clumsy that I wondered if my copy (a Persea 1981 reprint) had proofreader's (really non-proofreader's) errors. For example: "The principle of polite society, that unknown here; people appeared to grudge one of causing pleasure and avoiding pain, seemed second's agreeable intercourse and atone for it with unremitting rudeness." Does that make any sense? I wondered about "mentula moechia." Is there such a Latin word as "mentula?" The strange thing is that the author was regarded as one of the great literary figures of the century. Why? This was his only novel. His other books were a book telling people how to write books and a book of literary criticism. Another puzzle is that Cyril Connolly claimed it was rejected for publication because it was considered obscene. People go to bed with people they're not married to, but no details are given of what they do. There isn't a single naughty word. It's implied that some characters are homosexual. I'm not saying I didn't enjoy it. It has some interesting insights and well-written parts, but why is Connolly considered so great? 8 of 10 people found the following review helpful. mangled production quality By A Customer In response to the previous review: The quality of the Persea edition is so poor that I suspect it's a production failure. Too much is mangled to be poor proofreading. As to the question of Connolly's undeserved fame. One possible answer is that George Orwell endlessly shilled for Connolly (they were schoolmates). The excellent 4-volume "collected letters and journalism" shows Orwell talking up Connolly starting in 1936 and not ending until soon before Orwell's death.

In this engaging satire of the British upper class, a smug young literary man from Oxford joins an international group of artists and writers on the French Riviera, intending to study them as if they were aquatic organisms in a pool--with unexpected results. First published in 1936 by Jack Kahane's Obelisk Press.

About the Author Cyril Connolly (1903-74) was one of the most influential reviewers and book critics in England, contributing regularly to *The New Statesman*, *The Observer*, and *The Sunday Times*. His essays have been collected in book form and published to wide acclaim on both sides of the Atlantic. *The Rock Pool* was his only novel.