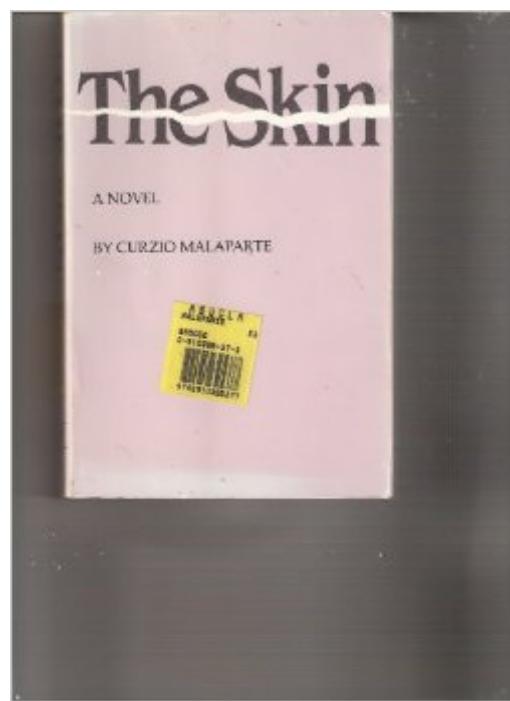


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# The Skin



## Synopsis

This is the first unexpurgated English edition of Curzio Malaparteâ™s legendary work *The Skin*. The book begins in 1943, with Allied forces cementing their grip on the devastated city of Naples. The sometime Fascist and ever-resourceful Curzio Malaparte is working with the Americans as a liaison officer. He looks after Colonel Jack Hamilton, âœa Christian gentleman . . . an American in the noblest sense of the word,â• who speaks French and cites the classics and holds his nose as the two men tour the squalid streets of a city in ruins where liberation is only another word for desperation. Veterans of the disbanded Italian army beg for work. A rare specimen from the cityâ™s famous aquarium is served up at a ceremonial dinner for high Allied officers. Prostitution is rampant. The smell of death is everywhere. Subtle, cynical, evasive, manipulative, unnerving, always astonishing, Malaparte is a supreme artist of the unreliable, both the product and the prophet of a world gone rotten to the core. --This text refers to an alternate Paperback edition.

## Book Information

Paperback: 344 pages

Publisher: Marlboro Pr (January 30, 1988)

Language: English

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Product Dimensions: 1 x 5.5 x 8.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.6 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 starsÂ See all reviewsÂ (22 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #2,271,931 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #138 inÂ Books > Literature & Fiction > World Literature > European > Italian #69688 inÂ Books > Literature & Fiction > Contemporary #482477 inÂ Books > Reference

## Customer Reviews

This is not an easy book, and it is not a book for everybody. In fact, if you believe in the manifest destiny of your country or are used to dividing people between winners and losers, save your time and do not buy this book because you would not understand it. Malaparte's book is a series of autobiographic episodes set in WW2 Italy. It shows the despair and degradation of a place where everything, everything is for sale and the only thing that matters is your skin, saving your skin and living another day. In many respects, however, Italy becomes a metaphor for the whole of Europe (watch the movie "Berlin - year 0") in those times, and perhaps mankind. In fact, Malaparte's

language is often poetic and his book transcends his times to become a universal portrait of suffering man. It is the suffering, defeated man that Malaparte takes pity of, while describing man in his hour of triumph as "unbearable". Among all the rhetoric on the Liberation and the magnificent new future that awaited Europe after the war, here is a writer who preferred to set his eyes on a painful present. Malaparte gives us a description of a terrible time which has the same timeless value as Thucidides' account of the plague in Athens. A particularly enjoyable part of the book is the description of the contact between the Old and the New World. Malaparte, an officer of the Italian Corps that fought alongside the Allies in the Italian campaign from 1943 onwards, was very good friend with some American officers and knew General Clark.

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