



The Name of the Rose

By Umberto Eco

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Umberto Eco's first novel, an international sensation and winner of the Premio Strega and the Prix Médicis Étranger awards

The year is 1327. Franciscans in a wealthy Italian abbey are suspected of heresy, and Brother William of Baskerville arrives to investigate. When his delicate mission is suddenly overshadowed by seven bizarre deaths, Brother William turns detective. His tools are the logic of Aristotle, the theology of Aquinas, the empirical insights of Roger Bacon—all sharpened to a glistening edge by wry humor and a ferocious curiosity. He collects evidence, deciphers secret symbols and coded manuscripts, and digs into the eerie labyrinth of the abbey, where “the most interesting things happen at night.”

“Like the labyrinthine library at its heart, this brilliant novel has many cunning passages and secret chambers . . . Fascinating . . . ingenious . . . dazzling.” – *Newsweek*

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Editorial Review

From Library Journal

Eco, an Italian philosopher and best-selling novelist, is a great polymathic fabulist in the tradition of Swift, Voltaire, Joyce, and Borges. *The Name of the Rose*, which sold 50 million copies worldwide, is an experimental medieval whodunit set in a monastic library. In 1327, Brother William of Baskerville arrives to investigate heresy among the monks in an Italian abbey; a series of bizarre murders overshadows the mission. Within the mystery is a tale of books, librarians, patrons, censorship, and the search for truth in a period of tension between the Papacy and the Holy Roman Empire. The book became a hit despite some obscure passages and allusions. This deftly abridged version, ably performed by Theodore Bikel, retains the genius of the original but is far more accessible. Foucault's *Pendulum*, Eco's second novel, is a bit irritating. The plot consists of three Milan editors who concoct a series on the occult for an unscrupulous publishing house that Eco ridicules mercilessly. The work details medieval phenomena including the Knights Templar, an ancient order with a scheme to dominate the world. Unfortunately, few listeners will make sense of this failed thriller. *The Island of the Day Before* is an ingenious tale that begins with a shipwreck in 1643. Roberta della Griva survives and boards another ship only to find himself trapped. Flashbacks give us Renaissance battles, the French court, spies, intriguing love affairs, and the attempt to solve the problem of longitude. It's a world of metaphors and paradoxes created by an entertaining scholar. Tim Curry, who also narrates Foucault's *Pendulum*, provides a spirited narration. Ultimately, libraries should avoid Foucault's *Pendulum*, but educated patrons will form an eager audience for both *The Name of the Rose* and *The Island of the Day Before*.

James Dudley, Copiague, N.Y.

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Review

Novel by Umberto Eco, published in Italian as *Il nome della rosa* in 1980. Although the work stands on its own as a murder mystery, it is more accurately seen as a questioning of "truth" from theological, philosophical, scholarly, and historical perspectives. The story centers on William of Baskerville, a 50-year-old monk who is sent to investigate a death at a Benedictine monastery. During his search, several other monks are killed in a bizarre pattern that reflects the Book of Revelation. Highly rational, Baskerville meets his nemesis in Jorge of Burgos, a doctrinaire blind monk determined to destroy heresy at any cost. -- *The Merriam-Webster Encyclopedia of Literature*

Language Notes

Text: English, Italian (translation)

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Gustavo Cyr:

What do you ponder on book? It is just for students since they are still students or it for all people in the world, the particular best subject for that? Merely you can be answered for that query above. Every person has diverse personality and hobby for each and every other. Don't to be obligated someone or something that they don't need do that. You must know how great along with important the book *The Name of the Rose*. All type of book is it possible to see on many methods. You can look for the internet methods or other social

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Jill White:

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Stephanie Landa:

The Name of the Rose can be one of your beginner books that are good idea. We recommend that straight away because this book has good vocabulary that may increase your knowledge in terminology, easy to understand, bit entertaining but delivering the information. The writer giving his/her effort to place every word into enjoyment arrangement in writing The Name of the Rose although doesn't forget the main place, giving the reader the hottest and also based confirm resource info that maybe you can be certainly one of it. This great information could drawn you into brand new stage of crucial thinking.

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