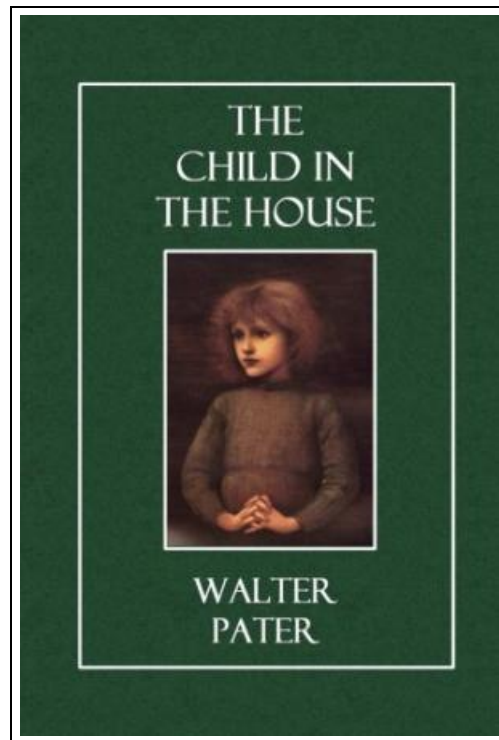


The Child in the House



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THE CHILD IN THE HOUSE

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CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform. Paperback. Condition: New. This item is printed on demand. 62 pages. Dimensions: 9.0in. x 6.0in. x 0.1in. WALTER HORATIO PATER was born at Shadwell, near London, August 4, 1839. His father, Richard Glode Pater, was a physician, and an adherent of the Church of England. The family from which he descended was Dutch and Roman Catholic. *The Child in the House*, that delicate and beautiful prose-poem, which Walter Pater published in 1878, is undoubtedly an account of his own early intellectual and spiritual development, though the picture of the environment of Florian Deleal is only partially reminiscent of Pater's childhood home. A silent and wonderfully sensitive child the future essayist must have been gifted with so keen a sense of the beautiful, that he seemed to experience a passionateness in his relation to fair outward objects, an inexplicable excitement in their presence, which disturbed him, and from which he half longed to be free. With this desire of physical beauty mingled itself early the fear of death the fear of death, intensified by the love of beauty. There was, also, an almost diseased sensibility to the spectacle of suffering; a morbid consciousness of that great machine in things, constructed so ingeniously to play pain-fugues on the delicate nerve work of living creatures. Religion was a solace and inspiration to the lonely, sensitive boy; but, characteristically, it was the artistic side of religion he loved most deeply: church lights, holy days, all that belonged to the comely order of the sanctuary, the secrets of its white linen, and holy vessels, and fountains of pure water; and its hieratic purity and simplicity became the type of something he desired always to have about him in actual life. One is not surprised that a brief conversation with Keble, in which the saintly...

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