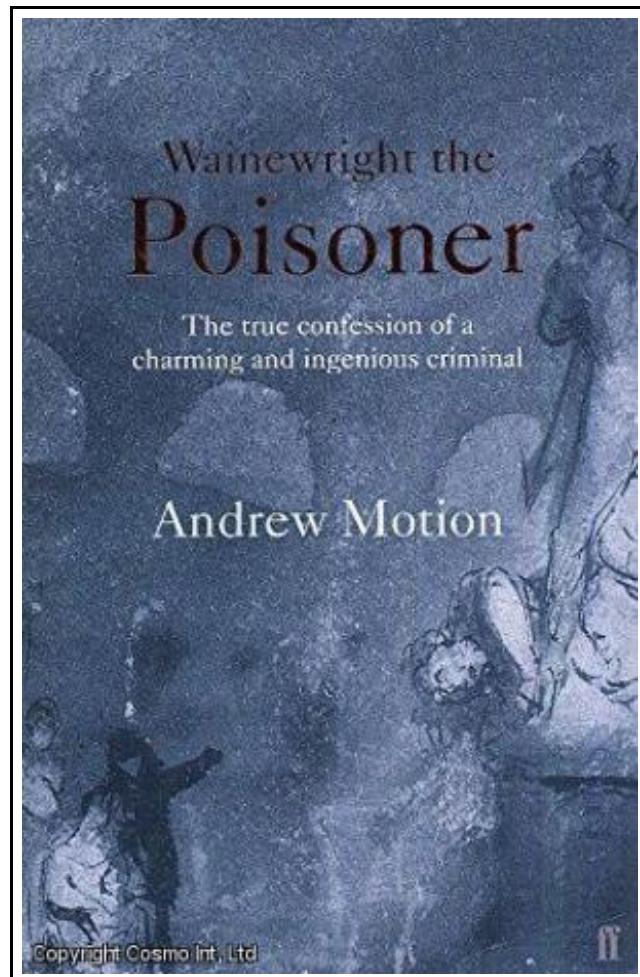


Wainewright the Poisoner



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Reviews

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WAINEWRIGHT THE POISONER

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Faber & Faber, UK. Softcover. Book Condition: New. First Edition. Available Now. Book Description: A dazzling and boldly original biography by Andrew Motion, Poet Laureate and the celebrated biographer of Larkin and Keats. Thomas Griffiths Wainewright was an ingenious and unscrupulous criminal. In 1828 he inherited the handsome family home, while successive legacies allowed him to maintain a flamboyant lifestyle. Meanwhile, within the space of a few years, three of his relatives died in suspicious circumstances. Eventually tried and arrested, Wainewright was transported for life to Tasmania. : Yet he had lived at the centre of the Romantic world. He exhibited at the Royal Academy and painted Byron's portrait. He was good friends with Henry Fuseli, William Blake and Charles Lamb, and knew John Clare, William Hazlitt, Thomas de Quincey and John Keats. He was known as amiable, kind, and good-hearted. Combining the form of a 'confession' with notes, asides and illuminations, Wainewright the Poisoner strips away the layers of legend and restores Wainewright to his own voice, capturing his dandified style, his charm as well as his callousness, his wit as well as his wantonness - and his deadly unreliability. : Amazon Review: Andrew Motion could have written a conventional biography of Thomas Wainewright, the dandified friend of Blake, Charles Lamb, de Quincey and Keats; art critic and painter (he painted Byron's portrait) who was also a notorious forger and poisoner. Motion's well-regarded biographies of Philip Larkin and John Keats demonstrate that he certainly possesses the biographical skill to get under the skin of complex characters. But, he tells us, "the overlay of legends" associated with Wainewright and the fact that he "falls out of the historical record so often and for so long" made a traditional biography impossible. So instead he has turned Wainewright's remarkable life into a...

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