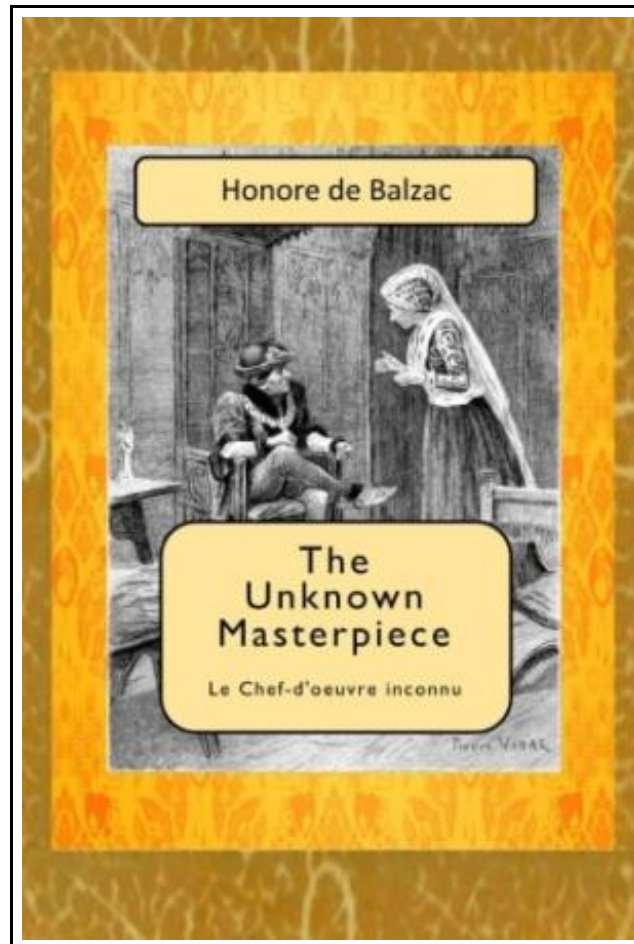


## The Unknown Masterpiece: Le Chef-D Oeuvre Inconnu (Paperback)



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(Taylor Medhurst)*

## THE UNKNOWN MASTERPIECE: LE CHEF-D OEUVRE INCONNU (PAPERBACK)

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Createspace, United States, 2014. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 229 x 152 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book \*\*\*\*\* Print on Demand \*\*\*\*\*.The Unknown Masterpiece - Le Chef-d oeuvre - inconnu - Honore de Balzac - Translated by Ellen Marriage - Le Chef-d oeuvre inconnu (English The Unknown Masterpiece ) is a short story by Honore de Balzac. It was first published in the newspaper L Artiste with the title Maitre Frenhofer (English: Master Frenhofer ) in August 1831. It appeared again later in the same year under the title Catherine Lescault, conte fantastique. It was published in Balzac s Etudes philosophiques in 1837 and was integrated into the La Comedie humaine in 1846. Le Chef-d oeuvre inconnu is a reflection on art, and has had an important influence on modernist artists. Young Nicolas Poussin, as yet unknown, visits the painter Porbus in his workshop. He is accompanied by the old master Frenhofer who comments expertly on the large tableau that Porbus has just finished. The painting is of Mary of Egypt, and while Frenhofer sings her praises, he hints that the work seems unfinished. With some slight touches of the paintbrush, Frenhofer transforms Porbus painting such that Mary the Egyptian appears to come alive before their very eyes. Although Frenhofer has mastered his technique, he admits that he has been unable to find a suitable model for his own masterpiece, which depicts a beautiful courtesan called Catherine Lescault, known as La Belle noiseuse. He has been working on this future masterpiece, that no one has yet seen, for ten years. Poussin offers his own lover, Gillette, as a potential model. Gillette s beauty is so great that it inspires Frenhofer to finish his project quickly. Poussin and Porbus come to admire the painting, but all they can see is...

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