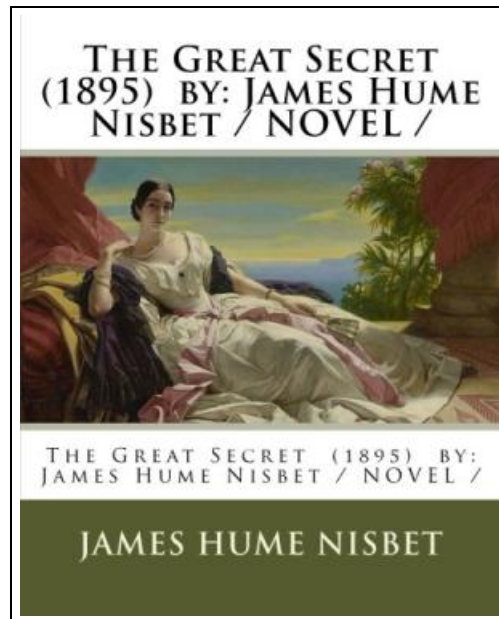


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James Hume Nisbet (8 August 1849 - 4 June 1923) was a Scottish-born novelist and artist, many of whose thrillers are set in Australia. Nisbet was born in Stirling, Scotland and received special artistic training, and was educated under the Rev. Dr. Culross (later of Bristol College) up to the age of fifteen. At 16 years of age he went to Australia and stayed about seven years, during which he travelled to Tasmania, New Zealand, and the South Sea Islands, painting, sketching, writing poetry and stories, and making notes for future work. He spent one year of the period acquiring theatrical experience at the Theatre Royal, Melbourne, under the actor Richard Stewart. Nisbet returned to London in 1872, and spent some time in studying and copying pictures in the National Gallery and in South Kensington. At the end of the next year he went back to Scotland and devoted himself to art, with an occasional lapse into literature.[2] For eight years he was art master of the Watt Institution and School of Art, Edinburgh. He travelled in Australia and New Guinea again during 1886, and paid a further visit to Australia in 1895. He had studied painting under Sam Bough, R.S.A., but he does not appear to have had any success. He speaks with bitterness of this in a volume called *Where Art Begins*, which he published in 1892. Among his best-known paintings are *Eve's first Moonrise*, *The Flying Dutchman*, *The Dream of Sardanapalus*, four pictures of *The Ancient Mariner*, and *The Battle of Dunbar*. Nisbet devoted most of his time to writing. He produced many volumes of verse, books on art and fiction. Several of his novels are coloured by his Australian...



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