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Short Shrift.

The Magician: By W. Somerset Maugham. Doubleday. \$3.75.

"The Magician," written by Maugham about half a century ago, shows its age in some respects but is nevertheless a most entertaining tale of love, revenge and "human bondage," with overtones of science-fiction, based roughly on the personality of the notorious Aleister Crowley. Maugham has contributed to this edition an introduction titled "A Fragment of Autobiography."