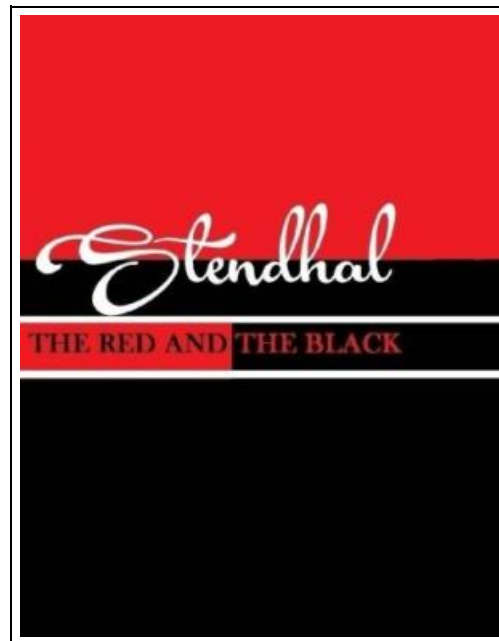


## The Red and the Black



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## THE RED AND THE BLACK



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Createspace, United States, 2014. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 279 x 216 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book \*\*\*\*\* Print on Demand \*\*\*\*\*.Some slight sketch of the life and character of Stendhal is particularly necessary to an understanding of *Le Rouge et Le Noir* (The Red and the Black) not so much as being the formal stuffing of which introductions are made, but because the book as a book stands in the most intimate relation to the author's life and character. The hero, Julien, is no doubt, viewed superficially, a cad, a scoundrel, an assassin, albeit a person who will alternate the moist eye of the sentimentalist with the ferocious grin of the beast of prey. But Stendhal so far from putting forward any excuses makes a specific point of wallowing defiantly in his own alleged wickedness. Even assuming that Julien is a villain and that it is my portrait, he wrote shortly after the publication of the book, why quarrel with me. In the time of the Emperor, Julien would have passed for a very honest man. I lived in the time of the Emperor. So-but what does it matter? Henri Beyle was born in 1783 in Grenoble in Dauphiny, the son of a royalist lawyer, situated on the borderland between the gentry and that bourgeoisie which our author was subsequently to chastise with that malice peculiar to those who spring themselves from the class which they despise. The boy's character was a compound of sensibility and hard rebelliousness, virility and introspection. Orphaned of his mother at the age of seven, hated by his father and unpopular with his schoolmates, he spent the orthodox unhappy childhood of the artistic temperament. Winning a scholarship at the Ecole Polytechnique at the age of sixteen he proceeded to Paris, where...



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