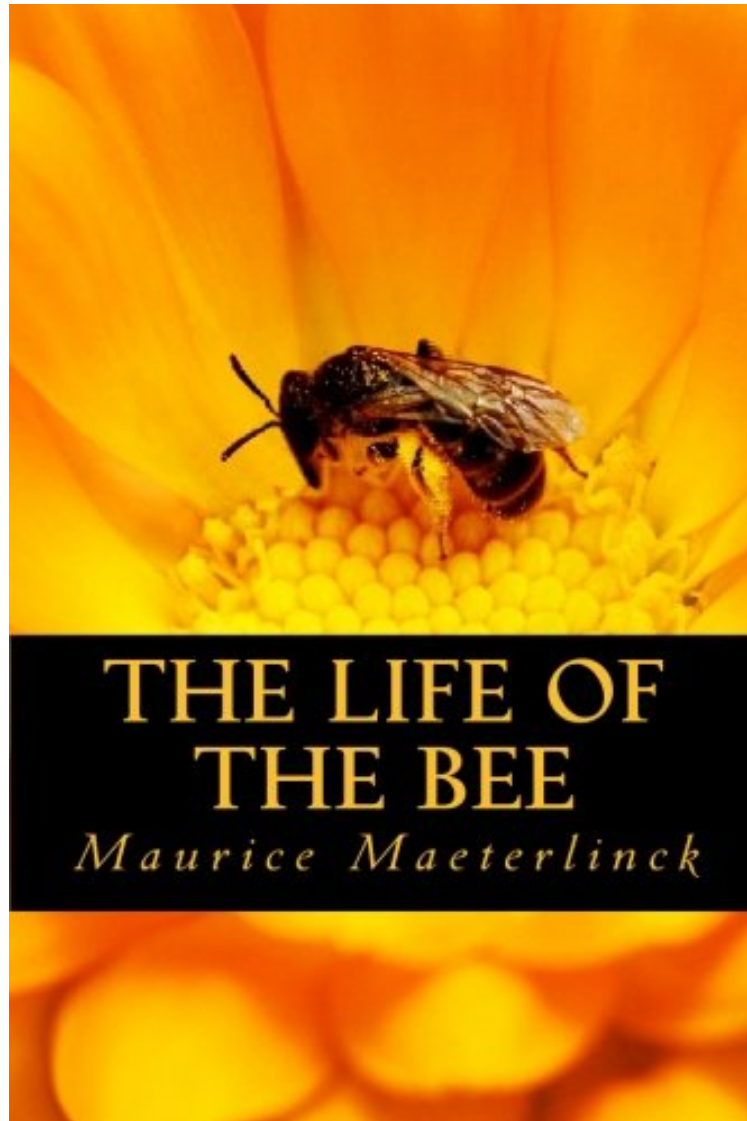


(Free) The Life of the Bee

## The Life of the Bee

*Maurice Maeterlinck*

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**Maurice Maeterlinck : The Life of the Bee** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Life of the Bee:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A Life More Than Bees By FogRider Profound but hard to follow his intense, intellectual, and philosophical point of view at times. His use of the English language is impressive but he lost me a couple of times and it took a rereading of several passages to see his connection between the life of bees and the life of humanity. That being said, I still enjoyed the challenge and feel his prognosis that much more observing is needed vs. drawing conclusions too quickly. I couldn't help but think that quantum biology and all the other emerging

quanta reinforce the author's views on "what is coming". 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. The Source of "The Spirit of the Beehive" By Thomas Victor Erice's great film, "The Spirit of the Beehive" (1973), had as the inspiration for its title this work by Maeterlinck. Since the film has been a favorite since I saw it in a theatre when it opened on its limited American debut, only to fall into obscurity until 2006 when Criterion reissued it in a fine remastered box set, I felt I had to have this book. Erice writes, "The title [of my film] really is not mine. It is taken from a book, in my opinion the most beautiful thing ever written about the life of bees, written by the great poet and playwright Maurice Maeterlinck. In that work, Maeterlinck uses the expression 'The Spirit of the Beehive' to name the powerful, enigmatic and paradoxical force that the bees seem to obey, and that the reason of man has never come to understand." It must surely be the most beautiful evocation of the bees' lives ever written. I read it with the same pleasure as I do great poetry, even though my interest in bees is limited at best to my alarm that they're being decimated by our chemicals. Anyone can read this book and derive as much aesthetic pleasure from it as one gleans from its fascinating insights into these astonishing creatures. Your next dollop of honey will never be quite the same. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. The Sex Life of Bees--and More... By eCid It is a classic, of course. He makes it quite clear that he is not an entomologist or an apiarist, but his own observations over many years are priceless. Particularly interesting are his explanations of swarming when the queen bee flies to higher altitudes than most bees can reach and is pursued by the male bees, one fortunate male is able to impregnate the queen while in flight--only to have his abdomen ripped out and dying when the deed is done. The sperm from that one donor is stored in a special organ in the queen's abdomen, where it is doled out to fertilize each of the thousands of eggs she will lay daily. It's a gruesome death for the successful donor, but that one male bee gets to father generations and literally hundreds of thousands of new bees. The fun part of Maeterlinck's descriptions is the endlessly delicate terminology he uses to describe the copulation process to a rigidly Puritanical Victorian readership in 19th century Europe. He has to resort to much word verbiage to explain the fact that--humans not excluded--in so far as Nature is concerned, the only reason for copulation is to continue the species.

In "The Life of the Bee," Nobel Prize winner Maurice Maeterlinck offers brilliant proof that "no living creature, not even man, has achieved in the center of his sphere, what the bee has achieved." From their amazingly intricate feats of architecture to their intrinsic sense of self-sacrifice, Maeterlinck takes a "bee's-eye view" of the most orderly society on Earth. A classic bee book written in a lively and readable style, "The Life of the Bee" is reasonably accurate (for a book of its vintage). In the words of Maurice Maeterlinck, "It is not my intention to write a treatise on apiculture, or on practical bee-keeping...I wish to speak of the bees very simply, as one speaks of a subject one knows and loves to those who know it not." It's safe to say that, in "The Life of the Bee," Maurice Maeterlinck succeeded in his goal very well. Maeterlinck, who was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1911, played an important part in the Symbolist movement. A Belgian playwright, poet, and essayist, Maeterlinck wrote primarily about death and the meaning of life.

About the Author Maurice Maeterlinck (1862- 1949) was a Belgian playwright, poet and essayist who wrote in French. He was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1911. The main themes in his work are death and the meaning of life. His plays form an important part of the Symbolist movement.