
The Stranger Translated By Matthew Ward

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Translated
By Matthew
Ward*

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THE TIMELESS POWER OF CAMUS: WHY THE STRANGER TRANSLATED BY MATTHEW WARD REMAINS A DEFINING TRANSLATION

When Albert Camus published *L'Étranger* in 1942, he could not have known that his spare, unnerving novel would become one of the most widely read works of the twentieth century. The story of

Meursault, a man who kills an Arab on an Algerian beach and is condemned not for the crime itself but for his failure to perform grief at his mother's funeral, has haunted readers for generations. Yet the way English-speaking audiences have encountered this masterpiece has shifted dramatically over the decades. Among the many versions available, **The Stranger Translated By Matthew Ward** stands as a landmark achievement, one that brings readers closer

than ever to Camus's original vision. Ward's translation, first published in 1988, challenged the longstanding dominance of Stuart Gilbert's 1946 edition and offered a radically different reading experience.

Understanding why this translation matters requires a closer look at the novel itself, the

art of literary translation, and the specific choices Ward made to render Camus's famously flat prose into English.

THE CHALLENGE OF TRANSLATING CAMUS'S ABSURDIST VOICE

Anyone who has read Camus in French knows that *L'Étranger*