Charles Dickens's first novel and comic masterpiece

In *The Pickwick Papers* we are introduced not just to one of the greatest writers in the English language, but to some of fiction's most endearing and memorable characters, starting with the 'illustrious, immortal and colossal-minded' Samuel Pickwick himself. It is a rollicking tour de force through an England on the brink of the Victorian era. Reform of government, justice and commercial life are imminent, as are rail travel, social convulsion and the death of deference, but Pickwick sails through on a tide of delirious adventure, fortifying us for the future - whatever it might throw at us.

This Macmillan Collector's Library edition is illustrated by H. K. Browne ('Phiz'), with an afterword by Ned Halley.

Charles Dickens was born in 1812 near Portsmouth, where his father worked as a clerk. Living in London in 1824, Dickens was sent by his family to work in a blacking-warehouse, and his father was arrested and imprisoned for debt. Fortunes improved and Dickens returned to school, eventually becoming a parliamentary reporter. His first piece of fiction was published by a magazine in December 1832, and by 1836 he had begun his first novel, *The Pickwick Papers*. He focused his career on writing, completing fourteen highly successful novels, as well as penning journalism, shorter fiction and travel books. He died in 1870.
An illustrated, full-color edition of Charles Dickens' classic Christmas tale

When *A Christmas Carol* was first published in 1843 it was an overnight success, and set a precedent that was to be followed by other Christmas books. A celebration of Christmas, a tale of redemption and a critique on Victorian society, Dickens' atmospheric novella follows the miserly, penny-pinching Ebenezer Scrooge who views Christmas as 'humbug'. It is only through a series of eerie, life-changing visits from the ghost of his deceased business partner Marley and the spirits of Christmas past, present and future that he begins to see the error of his ways. With heart-rending characters, rich imagery and evocative language, the message of *A Christmas Carol* remains as significant today as when it was first published.

Original illustrations by John Leech, with an afterword by Anna South.

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Charles Dickens' shortest novel, addressing themes of family, education and industrialisation in Victorian England

Hard Times is the archetypal Dickens novel, filled with family difficulties, estrangement, rotten values and unhappiness. Published in 1854, it is set in the imaginary Coketown, an industrial city inspired by Preston, and tells the story of the family of Thomas Gradgrind, a man obsessed with misguided 'Utilitarian' values that make him trust facts, statistics and practicality over emotion. Based on James Mill (the Utilitarian leader), Gradgrind raises his own children, Louisa and Tom, in line with these same views, forcing an artless existence on them. Contemporary critics such as Macaulay savaged the book for its supposed 'sullen socialism' but it has become well regarded since earning the favour of George Bernard Shaw.

Illustrated by Harry French, with an afterword by David Stuart Davies.

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David Stuart Davies is an author, playwright and editor. His fiction includes six novels featuring...
A collection of all Dickens' ghost stories – twenty in all – including several long tales.

Throughout his illustrious writing career, Charles Dickens often turned his hand to fashioning short pieces of ghostly fiction. Even in his first successful work, *The Pickwick Papers*, you will find five ghost stories, all of which are included in this collection. Dickens began the tradition of 'the ghost story at Christmas', and many of his tales in this genre are presented here, including the brilliant novella 'The Haunted Man and the Ghost's Bargain', which deserves to be as well-known as *A Christmas Carol*.

While all his supernatural tales aim to send a shiver down the spine, they are not without the usual traits of Dickens' flamboyant style: his subtle wit, biting irony, humorous incidents and moral observations. It is a mixture that makes these stories fascinating and entertaining as well as unsettling.

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Dickens's tale of David Copperfield follows him from birth through to his successful career as a novelist

In one of his most energetic and enjoyable novels, Dickens tells the life story of David Copperfield, from his birth in Suffolk, through the various struggles of his childhood, to his successful career as a novelist. The early scenes are particularly masterful, depicting the world as seen from the perspective of a fatherless small boy, whose idyllic life with his mother is ruined when she marries again, this time to a domineering and cruel man. David Copperfield is partly modelled on Dickens' own experiences, and one of the great joys of the book lies in its outlandish cast of characters, which includes the glamorous Steerforth, the cheerful, verbose Mr Micawber, the villainous Uriah Heep, and David's eccentric aunt, Betsey Trotwood. Dickens described it as his 'favourite child' among his novels and it i...

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One of Dickens’s most exciting books, set against the backdrop of the French revolution

A Tale of Two Cities is one of Charles Dickens’ most exciting novels. Set against the backdrop of the French Revolution, it tells the story of a family threatened by the terrible events of the past. Dr Manette, wrongly imprisoned in the Bastille for eighteen years, is finally released and reunited with his daughter Lucie who, despite her French ancestry, has been brought up in London. Lucie falls in love with Charles Darnay, who has abandoned both wealth and title in France because of his political convictions. When revolution breaks out in Paris, Darnay returns to the city to help an old family servant, but is soon arrested because of the crimes committed by his relations. Lucie, with their daughter and her father, follows him across the Channel, thus putting all their lives in danger.

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Charles Dickens' well-loved classic filled with unforgettable characters

*Oliver Twist* is one of Dickens's most popular novels, with many famous film, television and musical adaptations. It tells the story of the orphaned Oliver who is brought up in a harsh workhouse, then initiated into the criminal world of Fagin and his gang, before being eventually rescued by a loving family. This is a classic story of good against evil, packed with humour and pathos, drama and suspense, and peopled with some of Dickens' most memorable characters.

Illustrated by George Cruikshank, with an afterword by Sam Gilpin.

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An enduring classic from the greatest of storytellers

One of Dickens's most renowned and enjoyable novels, Great Expectations tells the story of Pip, an orphan boy who wishes to transcend his humble origins and finds himself unexpectedly given the opportunity to live a life of wealth and respectability. Over the course of the tale, in which Pip encounters such famous characters as Miss Havisham, Herbert Pocket and Joe Gargery, he comes to realise that his money is tainted and the girl he loves will not return his affections; happiness must be found in the things he gave up in pursuit of a more sophisticated life.

Illustrated by various artists, with an afterword by David Pinching.

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The classic story of Elsa the lioness and the woman who cared for her.

In 1960, Joy Adamson first introduced to the world the story of her life alongside Elsa - the lioness she had rescued as an orphaned cub and raised to adulthood at her home in Kenya. But, as Elsa had been born free, Joy made the heartbreaking decision to return her to the wild.

Since the first publication of Born Free generations of readers have been enchanted, inspired and moved by its uplifting charm and the remarkable interaction between Joy and Elsa. Rediscover the original story in the words of the woman who reared Elsa and walked with the lions. This Macmillan Collector’s Library edition also features an introduction by John Rendall, author of A Lion Called Christian.

Joy Adamson was a pioneer in the field of conservation. With her husband George, senior game warden in a huge area of the northern frontier province of Kenya, she established one of the world’s first wild animal appeals. Now the Elsa Conservation Trust, it operates an education, training and wildlife retreat centre at the Adamsons’ former home of Elsamere, on the shores of Lake Naivasha.

In 1969 John Rendall and fellow Australian Ace Bourke bought a lion cub from Harrods department store and named him Christian. They later reintroduced him to the African wild with the help of conservationist George Adamson. John continues his commitment to wildlife preservation.

Chas McGill has the second-best collection of war souvenirs in Garmouth but wants it to be the best. When he stumbles across the wreckage of a downed German bomber, he finds the ultimate trophy - a working machine gun. Hiding his discovery from the local police, Chas recruits his friends and together they build a fortress for their prize. But war is not a game and soon both friendships and loyalties are tested when the gang's actions have dangerous consequences.

Robert Westall wrote The Machine Gunners for his son, Christopher, based on his own experiences during the Second World War. A modern classic of children's fiction, it went on to win the CILIP Carnegie Medal in 1975 and has been in print ever since. The Machine Gunners is Robert Westall's gripping first novel for children set during World War Two ...

More than a decade after his death, Robert Westall retains his reputation as one of the most powerful writers for children. He was awarded two Carnegie Medals (for The Machine Gunners and The Scarecrows) and used his own childhood experiences of the Second World War in his books.
F. A. STEEL

English Fairy Tales

A classic collection of English Fairy Tales, illustrated in color

Fairy tales are written to both entertain and educate. Published in the shadow of the First World War, F. A. Steel's retellings of forty-one English fairy tales is a classic collection of stories, ranging from the familiar - 'Jack and the Beanstalk', 'Little Red Riding-Hood' and 'The Three Little Pigs' - to the perhaps less well known - 'The Black Bull of Norroway', 'Nix Nought Nothing' and 'The Red Ettin'. Originally published in 1918, it reflects the nationalistic concerns of the period. Steel takes the reader on a journey, from Cornwall to Bamborough Castle via a palace by the sea, as well as high into the sky, where a giant lives. These magical tales are brought to life by one of the best-known illustrators of the time, Arthur Rackham.

Flora Annie Steel (1847–1929) was the author of more than thirty books, most of which were novels describing Anglo-Indian life during the British Raj. She moved to India with her husband in 1867 and lived there for twenty-two years. Steel had a strong interest in traditional Indian culture and folk tales.

Arthur Rackham (1867–1939) was one of the leading figures from the 'Golden Age' of British book illustration. His ornate style used pen and ink, sometimes paired with subtle watercolors. His reputation was founded after he illustrated Washington Irving’s Rip van Winkle in 1905, followed by Peter Pan in Kensington Gardens for J. M. Barrie in 1906.
Part of the stunning Macmillan Collector's Library

Ibn Battutah - ethnographer, biographer, anecdotal historian and occasional botanist - was just twenty-one when he set out in 1325 from his native Tangier on a pilgrimage to Mecca. He did not return to Morocco for another twenty-nine years, travelling instead through more than forty countries on the modern map, covering seventy-five thousand miles and getting as far north as the Volga, as far east as China and as far south as Tanzania. He wrote of his travels, and comes across as a superb ethnographer, biographer, anecdotal historian and occasional botanist and gastronome.

With this edition by Tim Mackintosh-Smith, Ibn Battutah's Travels takes its place alongside other indestructible masterpieces of the travel-writing genre.

Tim Mackintosh-Smith has lived in San'a - the Yemeni capital - for the last twenty years. His acclaimed *Travels with a Tangerine: A Journey in the Footnotes of Ibn Battutah* won him a Thomas Cook/Daily Telegraph Travel Book Award.
The Odyssey is perhaps Western literature's first adventure story, and certainly remains one of its finest. It describes King Odysseus of Ithaca's epic, ten-year quest to return home after the Trojan War. He encounters giants, sorceresses, sea-monsters and sirens, while his wife Penelope is forced to resist the suitors who besiege her on Ithaca. Both an enchanting fairy tale and a gripping drama, The Odyssey is immensely influential, not least for its rich complexity and the magnetism of its hero.

This Macmillan Collector's Library edition uses a translation by T. E. Lawrence, now remembered as 'Lawrence of Arabia' and the author of Seven Pillars of Wisdom. First published in 1932, his translation took four years to complete and has been continuously in print ever since. It is recognized as the first tra...

The identity of the writer of the Odyssey is a matter of some speculation. The ancients were convinced it was Homer, although they tended to disagree as to biographical details. The best supported evidence suggests he lived in Chios, an island off the west coast of Turkey, some time between 1100 and 700BC, probably closer to the latter. Traditionally portrayed as revered, old and blind, he composed the Iliad and Odyssey and possibly the Homeric Hymns, a series of choral addresses to the gods.
Victor Hugo's sweeping story of revolution, love and the fight for justice amidst the poverty stricken streets of 19th century Paris

*Les Misérables* is a magnificent, sweeping story of revolution, love and the will to survive, set amidst the poverty stricken streets of nineteenth-century Paris.

Escaped convict Jean Valjean turns his back on his criminal past to build a fortune as an honest man. He takes in abandoned orphan Cosette and raises her as his own daughter. But Valjean is unable to free himself from his previous life and is pursued to the end by ruthless policeman Javert. As Cosette grows up, young idealist Marius catches a glimpse of her and falls desperately in love. The fates of all the characters will be sealed during the violent turmoil of the June Rebellion in 1832.

This abridged version of Victor Hugo's masterpiece was published in 1915 with the aim to provide 'a unified story of the life and soul-struggles of Jean Valjean...

Victor-Marie Hugo, the pivotal figure of the Romantic movement in France, was born in Besançon, France, in 1802. At the tender age of 17 he began the literary magazine *Conservateur Littéraire*. The publication in 1831 of his novel *The Hunchback of Notre-Dame* secured his widespread popularity. He completed *Les Misérables* (1872), an instant success not only in his native land but also, through immediate translations, on an international scale. But the deaths of his wife (1868) and two sons (1871, 1873) drained his energies and, although a national hero, he wrote little more of note. In 1883 Juliette Drouet, his mistress since the early 1830s, died, and two years later, in 1885, he followed her.

Paul Bailey is a pri...
Part of Macmillan Collector's Library

E. M. Delafield's largely autobiographical novel takes the form of a journal written by an upper-middle-class lady living in a Devonshire village. Written with tongue-in-cheek humour, this charming novel is full of the peculiarities of daily life. The Provincial Lady of the title attempts to avoid disaster and prevent chaos from descending upon her household. But with a husband reluctant to do anything but doze behind The Times, mischievous children and trying servants, it's a challenge keeping up appearances on an inadequate income, particularly in front of the infuriating and haughty Lady Boxe. As witty and delightful today as when it was first published in 1930, *Diary of a Provincial Lady* is a brilliantly observed comic novel and an acknowledged classic.

With an introduction by Christina Hardyment.

E. M. Delafield (1890-1943) was born in Steyning, Sussex, the elder daughter of Count Henry Philip Ducarel de la Pasture, of Llandogo Priory, Monmouthshire, and Elizabeth Lydia Rosabelle, daughter of Edward William Bonham. Her mother was also a well-known novelist, writing as Mrs Henry de la Pasture.

Delafield worked as a nurse in a Voluntary Aid Detachment in Exeter at the outbreak of World War I and her first novel, *Zella Sees Herself*, was published in 1917. She continued to publish one or two novels every year until nearly the end of her life.

Christina Hardyment is an acclaimed non-fiction author, broadcaster and journalist. She writes documentaries for radio and opinion pieces for major newspapers such as th...
A collection of short stories from the author of *The Great Gatsby*

*Tales of the Jazz Age* features some of F. Scott Fitzgerald’s best-loved short stories and novelettes including ‘The Curious Case of Benjamin Button’ and 'The Diamond as Big as the Ritz'. Set in the 'Jazz Age', Fitzgerald's own term for the Roaring Twenties, this collection shows a comic genius at work, deploying every style from low farce to shrewd social insight, along with the fantasy of extraordinary invention. These stories illuminate the unique talent of the man who went on to write *The Great Gatsby*, and become one of the enduring icons of American Literature.

With an afterword by Ned Halley.

F. Scott Fitzgerald (1896-1940) was born into a well-to-do Catholic family living in St Paul, Minnesota. At Princeton University he decided to become a writer, leaving without graduating in 1917 to join the army when America entered the First World War. Believing he would be killed at the front, he hurriedly wrote his first novel, but was not sent to Europe. His first novel, *This Side of Paradise* (1920) was published to great critical acclaim. He married Zelda Sayle a week after the publication and they embarked on an extravagant lifestyle in New York, which provided much material for *The Beautiful and Damned* (1922). By this time their daughter, Scottie, had been born, Scott and Zelda had moved to Long Island, ...
F. Scott Fitzgerald’s novel of decadence and decay in the 1920s

The Beautiful and Damned, F. Scott Fitzgerald's second novel, tells the story of Anthony Patch, a 1920s socialite and presumptive heir to a tycoon’s fortune. Anthony and his wife Gloria are young and gorgeous, rich and leisured, and dedicate their lives to the reckless pursuit of happiness. But this intimate story turns tragic, as their marriage disintegrates under the weight of their expectations, dissipation, jealousy and aimlessness.

Fitzgerald skilfully portrays the east-coast elite as the Jazz Age begins its ascent, engulfing all classes into what will soon be known as Cafe Society. As with all of Fitzgerald’s novels, it is a brilliant character study written in breathtaking prose. It is also a gripping account of the complexities of marriage, largely based on Fitzgerald’s relationship with his wif...

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One of the most influential books in early American literature

Henry Thoreau is considered, along with Edgar Allan Poe, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Walt Whitman and Nathaniel Hawthorne, as one of the leading figures in early American literature, and *Walden* is without doubt his most influential book. It recounts the author’s experiences living in a small house in the woods around Walden Pond near Concord in Massachusetts. Thoreau constructed the house himself, with the help of a few friends, in an attempt to see if he could live independently and away from society. The result is an intriguing work which blends natural history with philosophical insights and includes many illuminating quotations from other authors. Thoreau’s wooden shack has won a place for itself in the collective American psyche, a remarkable achievement for a book with such modest and rustic beginnings.

Henry Thoreau was born in Concord, Massachusetts, in 1817, and attended Concord Academy and Harvard. After a short time spent as a teacher, he worked as a surveyor and a handyman, sometimes employed by Ralph Waldo Emerson. Between 1845 and 1847 Thoreau lived in a house he had made himself on Emerson’s property near to Walden Pond. During this period he completed *A Week on the Concord and Merrimack Rivers* and wrote the first draft of *Walden*, the book that is generally judged to be his masterpiece. He died of tuberculosis in 1862, and much of his writing was published posthumously.
A collection of some of the most imaginative and dramatic stories by Edgar Allan Poe

This collection of Poe's work contains some of the most exciting and haunting stories ever written. They range from the poetic to the mysterious to the darkly comic, yet all possess the genius for the grotesque that defines Poe's writing. They are peopled with neurotics and social outcasts, obsessed with nameless terrors or preoccupied with seemingly unsolvable mysteries. 'The Tell-Tale Heart' and 'The Fall of the House of Usher' are key works in the horror canon, while in the 'The Murders in the Rue Morgue' and 'The Mystery of Marie Roget' we find the origins of modern detective fiction. Collectively, these tales represent the best of Edgar Allan Poe's prose work before his premature death in 1849.

This Macmillan Collector's Library edition features an afterword by Jonty Claypole.

Edgar Allan Poe was born in Boston in 1809. His parents, both touring actors, died before he was three. He was raised by John Allan, a prosperous Virginian merchant. Poe published his first volume of poetry while still a teenager. He worked as an editor for magazines in Philadelphia, Richmond and New York, and achieved respect as a literary critic. In 1836, he married his thirteen year-old cousin. It was only with the publication of The Raven and other Poems in 1845 that he achieved national fame as a writer. Poe died in mysterious circumstances in 1849.
A selection of Edgar Allan Poe’s best tales and poems

This mesmerising, macabre collection contains Edgar Allan Poe’s best-known poetry, including 'The Raven', 'Annabel Lee' and 'Lenore', and a selection of his very best stories, along with his finest tales from the last decade of his tragically short life. Many of these stories and poems explore the familiar Poe themes of murder, obsession and love, but this volume also contains many overlooked tales of the fantastic, black comedies, parodies and hoaxes, such as 'The Unparalleled Adventure of Hans Pfall', 'Mesmeric Revolution', 'Hop-Frog', and 'The Imp of the Perverse'.

This Macmillan Collector’s Library edition features an afterword by David Pinching.

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Gaston Leroux’s brilliant and disturbing book

Strange things are going on at the Paris Opera House; a mysterious phantom - a skeleton in dinner dress - is wreaking havoc amongst the singers and backstage staff. But when new managers take over and dismiss the rumours of the Opera Ghost, the terror really begins. Who is the curious figure stalking the stage at night? How can he be in so many places at once, entering and leaving locked rooms at will? And what is his connection to the beautiful and talented young soloist, Christine?

*The Phantom of the Opera* is perhaps best known for its many stage and screen adaptations, but Gaston Leroux's original text surpasses them all for its Gothic tension and haunting horror.

With an afterword by Peter Harness.

Gaston Leroux was born in Paris in 1868. Upon reaching adulthood, he qualified as a lawyer, but, upon his father’s death, his received a large inheritance, and left the law to become a writer. He first found fame as an investigative reporter on *L’Echo de Paris*, and travelled the world in a variety of disguises, reporting on a wide range of topics from volcanic eruptions to palace revolutions. In 1907, he changed career once again, and started work as a novelist, finding critical and commercial success with works such as *The Mystery of the Yellow Room* (1907) and *The Phantom of the Opera* (1911). Leroux continued to be a prolific writer until his death in 1927 - the result of complications following an operation.
The most famous and enchanting collection of fairytales ever published

For the past two centuries, these delightful stories, gathered together and written down by brothers Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm, have entertained and frightened children and adults alike. The lives of Tom Thumb, Cinderella, Rumplestiltskin and the Frog Prince form part of our common heritage: they stimulate the imagination and the heart, and linger at the back of our minds for a lifetime. They are funny, disturbing, wise and compassionate. They speak of joy and terror, happiness and revenge, love and violence.

Arthur Rackham’s masterly illustrations have all been hand-coloured by Barbara Frith, one of Britain’s leading colourists.

Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm were born during the 1780s in Hanau, Germany, and studied law. In 1837 they were dismissed from their professorships for refusing to swear allegiance to the new King of Hanover, but later were invited to join the Academy in Berlin where they remained for the rest of their lives. The brothers were two of the greatest scholars that Germany has produced. Aside from their folktales, they produced many different volumes of research, anthologies of verse and song, and two of Germany’s most important linguistic texts, the *Deutsche Grammatik* (German grammar) and the *Deutsche Wörterbuch* (German dictionary). Wilhelm died in 1859, at the age of 73, and Jacob died in 1863, at the age of 78.
Hans Christian Andersen's unique and inventive stories

Hans Christian Andersen was the profoundly imaginative writer and storyteller who revolutionized literature for children. He gave us the now standard versions of some traditional fairy tales – with an anarchic twist – but many of his most famous tales sprang directly from his imagination. The thirty stories here range from exuberant early works such as ‘The Tinderbox’ and ‘The Emperor’s New Clothes’ through poignant masterpieces such as ‘The Little Mermaid’, ‘The Little Match Girl’ and ‘The Ugly Duckling’, to more subversive later tales such as ‘The Ice Maiden’ and ‘The Dryad’. Uniquely inventive and vivacious in style and with deep insight into the child’s point of view.

This is the classic translation by Jean Hersholt.

Illustrated by various artists, with an afterword by Ned Halley.

Hans Christian Andersen was born in Odense, Denmark, in 1805. He endured a lonely, impoverished childhood consoled by little more than his own imagination. He escaped to a theatre life in Copenhagen aged 14 where the support of a powerful patron enabled him to complete his scant education, and to write. His poetry, novels and travel books became hugely popular. But it was his Fairy Tales, the first children's stories of their kind, published in instalments from 1835 until the time of his death in 1875, that have immortalised him. Translated into more than 100 languages and adapted to every kind of media, they have made Andersen the most important children's writer in history.
Herman Melville's classic American novel

On board the whaling ship Pequod a crew of wise men and fools, renegades and seeming phantoms is hurled through treacherous seas by a crazed captain hell-bent on hunting down the mythic White Whale. Melville transforms the little world of the whale-ship into a crucible where mankind’s fears, faith and frailties are pitted against a relentless fate. Teeming with ideas and imagery, and with its extraordinary, compressed intensity sustained by mischievous irony and moments of exquisite beauty, Moby-Dick is both a great American epic and a most profoundly imaginative literary creation.

With an afterword by Nigel Cliff.

Herman Melville was born in 1819 in New York City. Melville worked at various jobs before shipping on the whaler Achshnet in 1841. The next year he deserted, traveled the South Seas and joined the US Navy. After three years he retired and started to write. His first two novels were fictionalized accounts of his travels. In 1847 Melville married and wrote a series of potboiler novels for money. With Moby-Dick (1851) he changed course, but the novel’s extravagant intensity lost him readers. Pierre (1852) fared no better, and after publishing one more novel Melville took a job as a customs inspector and turned to writing poetry. He died there in 1891; an unfinished novel, Billy Budd, Sailor, was published in 1924.
A collection of the best fairy stories and folk tales from around the world

Fairy tales are the simplest and purest expressions of the collective unconscious and so a study of the world's best fairy stories offers a wealth of insights into the human mind, from a multitude of nations and cultures. Folk tales and fairy stories were originally intended for both adults and children - *Grimms' Household Tales*, for instance - and this international anthology brings together 'The Frog Who Became an Emperor' from China, 'The Three Billy Goats Gruff' from Norway and 'Pinocchio' from Italy, as well as the classic stories of Aesop, Andersen, the Brothers Grimm, Charles Perrault and Oscar Wilde, among many others.

Accompanying artwork by the masters of children's book illustration, including Arthur Rackham, Charles Robinson, Walter Crane and Howard Pyle, will appeal to readers of all ages.

Marcus Clapham was the Editorial Director of The Collector's Library. He has always worked in the book trade, and he is the author, editor or anthologiser of nearly twenty books.
James Joyce’s classic collection of short stories

Dubliners was first published in 1914. The book depicts middle-class Catholic life in Dublin at the beginning of the twentieth century. The topics in the opening stories include the disappointments of childhood, the frustrations of adolescence, and the importance of sexual awakening. Joyce was 25 years old when he wrote this miscellaneous collection of short stories, among which ‘The Dead’ is probably the most famous. Considered at the time as a literary experiment, there are moments of joy, fear, grief, love and loss, which come together to form one of the most complete and comprehensive depictions of a city ever committed to the page, and they remain as refreshingly original and surprising at the beginning of this century as they were at the beginning of the last.

With an afterword by Peter Harness.

James Joyce was born in Dublin in 1882. He came from a reasonably wealthy family which, largely because of the recklessness of Joyce’s father John, was soon plunged into financial hardship. Joyce attended Clongowes College, Belvedere College and, eventually, University College, Dublin. In 1904 he met Nora Barnacle, and eloped with her to Croatia. From this point until the end of his life, Joyce lived as an exile, moving from Trieste to Rome, and then to Zurich and Paris. His major works are Dubliners (1914), A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man (1916), Ulysses (1922) and Finnegans Wake (1939). He died in 1941, by which time he had come to be regarded as one of the greatest novelists the world ever produced.
A collection of tingling tales of poltergeists, supernatural experiences, haunted houses, death warnings and banshees

Blend the wild and fevered Irish imagination with their wonderful facility for recounting a dark, compelling tale, add a dash of the supernatural, and you have a potent brew of spine-tingling tales. This anthology of the best ghost stories from Ireland and Irish writers includes contributions from such masters of the art of raising as Sheridan Le Fanu, Bram Stoker, Oscar Wilde, W. B. Yeats and Rosa Mulholland. Within these pages you will find strange accounts of haunted houses, death warnings from beyond the grave, and revengeful spirits, all guaranteed to stir the imagination and chill the blood.

Selected and introduced by David Stuart Davies.

David Stuart Davies is an author, playwright and editor. His fiction includes six novels featuring his wartime detective Johnny Hawke and six Sherlock Holmes novels. He has also penned a series of dark gritty crime novels set in Yorkshire in the 1980s. He is a committee member of the Crime Writers' Association, editing their monthly publication, Red Herrings, and is a Fellow of the Royal Literary Fund.

David is regarded as an authority on Sherlock Holmes and is the author of two Holmes plays, Sherlock Holmes: The Last Act and Sherlock Holmes: The Death and Life, which are available on audio CD. He has written all the Afterwords for the Collector's Library Holmes volumes as well as for many of their other titles.
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