Confessions of an English Opium-Eater

Thomas De Quincey

Confessions of an English Opium-Eater is a powerful nineteenth-century autobiography tracing Thomas De Quincey’s journey of addiction, introduced by Dr Frances Wilson.

Explosive and unforgiving, Confessions of an English Opium-Eater describes in searing detail the pleasure, pain and mind-expanding powers of opium.

Part of the Macmillan Collector’s Library; a series of stunning, clothbound, pocket sized classics with gold foiled edges and ribbon markers. These beautiful books make perfect gifts or a treat for any book lover. This edition is introduced by biographer, critic and academic Frances Wilson.

Thomas De Quincey takes us on a journey from his grammar school childhood to his homeless adolescence in Wales, from befriending prostitutes during his nocturnal wanderings in London to enrolling at Oxford University only to drop out when his drug use overcomes him. Thrust into a disorientating world of extreme euphoria and vivid nightmares, De Quincey’s life story is both unpredictable and deeply personal. Confessions of an English Opium-Eater is considered to be the first published autobiography to explore the lure and effects of addiction.

Thomas de Quincey was born in Manchester in 1785. Highly intelligent but with a rebellious spirit, he was offered a place at Oxford University whilst still a student at Manchester Grammar School. But unwilling to complete his studies, he ran away and lived on the streets first in Wales and then in London. Eventually he returned home and took up his place at Oxford but quit before completing his degree. A friend of Coleridge and Wordsworth, he eventually settled in Grasmere in the Lake District ...
In the Ravine & Other Stories

Anton Chekhov

A new selection of stories which highlights the breadth of Chekhov’s talent for short story writing.

Anton Chekhov was one of the world’s most accomplished short-story writers and this new collection displays the breadth and variety of his genius.

Part of the Macmillan Collector’s Library; a series of stunning, clothbound, pocket sized classics with gold foiled edges and ribbon markers. These beautiful books make perfect gifts or a treat for any book lover. In the Ravine & Other Stories are translated by Constance Garnett and selected and introduced by Paul Bailey.

Chekhov had an incomparable ability to write about the seemingly every day with insight, humour and compassion. His characters are brilliantly drawn, from the church warden who’s convinced his wife’s a witch because strangers arrive on the doorstep whenever there’s a storm, to the wronged wife who confronts her husband’s chorus-girl lover, to the melancholy school teacher who imagines how her life might have been.

Anton Chekhov was born in 1860 in Southern Russia and moved to Moscow to study medicine. Whilst at university he sold short stories and sketches to magazines to raise money to support his family. His success and acclaim grew as both a writer of fiction and of plays whilst he continued to practice medicine. Ill health forced him to move from his country estate near Moscow to Yalta where he wrote some of his most famous work. And it was there that he married actress Olga Knipper. He died from tubercle...
My Ántonia

Willa Cather

A powerful novel of the American Midwest by Pulitzer Prize winning author Willa Cather

Set in rural Nebraska, Willa Cather’s My Ántonia is both the story of an enduring friendship and a brilliant portrayal of the lives of rural pioneers in the late-nineteenth century.

Part of the Macmillan Collector’s Library; a series of stunning, clothbound, pocket sized classics with gold foiled edges and ribbon markers. These beautiful books make perfect gifts or a treat for any book lover. This edition has an afterword by Bridget Bennett and original illustrations by W. T. Benda.

Ántonia and her family are from Bohemia and they must endure real hardship and loss to establish a new home in America. But Ántonia is never broken by adversity, and her strength and love of life stays with her childhood friend Jim for years to come, even as he leaves home to study and pursue his career. Told through Jim’s eyes, My Ántonia is a rich and beautiful novel about childhood and growing up, different cultures and the lure of home.

Born in 1873, Willa Cather was raised in Virginia and Nebraska. After graduating from Lincoln University she spent ten years establishing herself as a theater critic, journalist and teacher in Pittsburgh whilst also writing short stories and poems. She then moved to New York where she took a job as an investigative journalist before becoming a full time writer. Cather enjoyed great literary success and won the Pulitzer Prize for her novel One of Ours. She’s now best known for her Prairie trilogy...
The Prince
Niccolò Machiavelli

Machiavelli’s profound political essay from the 16th century, with an afterword by Oliver Francis.

Niccolò Machiavelli provides a remarkably uncompromising picture of the true nature of power, no matter what era or by whom it is exercised.

Part of the Macmillan Collector’s Library; a series of stunning, clothbound, pocket sized classics with gold foiled edges and ribbon markers. These beautiful books make perfect gifts or a treat for any book lover. This edition features an afterword by Oliver Francis.

Drawing on examples from the ancient Greeks and Romans and from Machiavelli’s contemporaries, it offers – some believed with satirical intent – advice on how a ruler should preserve his power, conduct and warfare, and maintain his reputation. Machiavelli not only influenced many of the great statesmen of his age, but was also one of the founding fathers of modern political thought. The Prince, written in 1513 and published in 1532, is one of the most famous pieces of writing of all time.

Niccolò Machiavelli was born on 3 May 1469 in Florence, during that city-state’s peak of greatness under the Medici family. In 1494, the year the Medici were exiled, Machiavelli entered Florentine public service. In 1498 he was appointed Chancellor and Secretary to the Second Chancery. Serving as diplomat for the republic, Machiavelli was an emissary to some of the most distinguished people of their age. When the Medici were returned to Florence in 1512, Machiavelli was forced into retirement. I...
The Prophet

Kahlil Gibran

Kahlil Gibran's classic collection of poetic essays touching on subjects from love and friendship to pain and freedom.

Thought-provoking, comforting and wise, the simple truths of The Prophet remain compelling and rewarding to this day.

Part of the Macmillan Collector’s Library; a series of stunning, clothbound, pocket sized classics with gold foiled edges and ribbon markers. These beautiful books make perfect gifts or a treat for any book lover.

Utterly unique and beloved around the world, The Prophet is a collection of twenty-six poetic essays by the Lebanese artist, philosopher and writer Khalil Gibran. Telling the story of the prophet Al-Mustafa and his conversations with various acquaintances as he returns home after a long absence, the book touches on subjects of universal concern, including love, friendship, passion, pain, religion and freedom.

Khalil Gibran was born into an impoverished Christian family in Bsharri, Lebanon in 1883. His masterpiece, The Prophet, was first published in 1923 and is among the most-read books of the last century, inspiring the lyric-writing of John Lennon, among others. But Gibran enjoyed only scant recognition in his own time - his health broken by chronic illness and self-neglect, he died in 1931 aged just 48, in his adopted home of New York. He is buried at Bsharri, where his tomb, now a museum, is visi...
Poems of Childhood

A collection of favourite classic children’s poems introduced by acclaimed author, Michael Morpurgo.

A child’s life should be full of poems, rhymes and songs, and Poems of Childhood is a celebration of that.

Part of the Macmillan Collector’s Library, a series of stunning, clothbound, pocket-sized classics with gold-foiled edges and ribbon markers. These beautiful books make perfect gifts or a treat for any book lover. This edition features an introduction by acclaimed author, Michael Morpurgo.

Poems of Childhood combines the best of classic children’s poetry into one anthology featuring a rich range of themes – from animals to nursery rhymes, from nonsense poems to magic. Many favourites are here, including ‘The Owl and the Pussy-cat’, ‘Jabberwocky’ and ‘The Tyger’. This delightful collection is the perfect gift for children and a chance for adults to revisit their favourite verse from the likes of Edward Lear, Lewis Carroll and Kenneth Grahame.

Michael Morpurgo is one of Britain's best loved writers for children. He has written over 130 books including Private Peaceful, Shadow and War Horse, which was adapted for a hugely successful stage production by the National Theatre and then, in 2011, for a film directed by Steven Spielberg. Michael was Children's Laureate from 2003 to 2005. The charity Farms for City Children, which he founded thirty years ago with his wife Clare, has now enabled over 70,000 children to spend a week living and...
Poems for Christmas

A joyful anthology of Christmas poems and songs with an introduction by Judith Flanders, author of Christmas: A Biography.

Poems for Christmas is an exquisitely produced gift anthology which is guaranteed to get anyone in the festive spirit.

Part of the Macmillan Collector’s Library, a series of stunning, clothbound, pocket-sized classics with gold-foiled edges and ribbon markers. These beautiful books make perfect gifts or a treat for any book lover. This edition features an introduction by Judith Flanders, author of Christmas: A Biography.

Through the generations, poets from William Shakespeare to Thomas Hardy and from John Donne to Christina Rossetti have been inspired to celebrate the Christmas season in verse. Just as we cherish our Christmas traditions now, so many of the great poets wrote beautifully about the Christmas story, magical wintry landscapes, festive traditions and making merry. And then, of course, there are the much-loved songs and carols from around the world that we still sing today, many of which are included in this enchanting anthology.

Judith Flanders is the author of the bestselling The Victorian House: Domestic Life from Childbirth to Deathbed (2003); A Circle of Sisters (2001), which was nominated for the Guardian First Book Award; the New York Times bestselling The Invention of Murder (2001), shortlisted for the CWA Gold Dagger for Non-fiction; The Victorian City: Everyday Life in Dickens’ London (2012), shortlisted for the Los Angeles Times History Book of the Year; and The Making of Home (2014). In her copious leisure time...
Poems for Happiness

An uplifting collection of poetry about happiness with an introduction by The Reverend Richard Coles

Poetry is the perfect medium to capture the elusive nature of happiness and this beautiful anthology explores happiness in all its forms – whether it be a fleeting moment, the promise of freedom and adventure, surviving adversity or the comfort of nature.

Part of the Macmillan Collector’s Library, a series of stunning, clothbound, pocket-sized classics with gold-foiled edges and ribbon markers. These beautiful books make perfect gifts or a treat for any book lover. Poems for Happiness features an introduction by writer, broadcaster and parish priest, the Reverend Richard Coles.

This inspiring and life-affirming collection features writing by some of our greatest poets whose work is still widely read today. It includes famous poems such as ‘How Do I Love Thee?’ by Elizabeth Barrett Browning, ‘If’ by Rudyard Kipling, ‘My Heart Leaps Up’ by William Wordsworth and ‘Invictus’ by W. E. Henley. In addition to these well-known verses, this beautiful volume includes lesser-known poems to discover and enjoy.

The Reverend Richard Coles is an English musician, writer, Church of England priest, and co-presenter of Saturday Live on BBC Radio 4. He read Theology at King’s College London, and after ordination worked as a curate in Lincolnshire, then in central London, before coming to Finedon in Northamptonshire, where he is Vicar. He was the multi-instrumentalist who partnered Jimmy Somerville in the 1980s band the Communards, which achieved three Top Ten hits, including the Number 1 record and best-sell...
Poems on Nature

This delightful collection of nature poems is introduced by author Helen Macdonald.

The poems in *Poems on Nature* are divided into spring, summer, autumn and winter to reflect in verse the changes of the seasons and the passing of time.

Part of the Macmillan Collector’s Library, a series of stunning, clothbound, pocket-sized classics with gold-foiled edges and ribbon markers. These beautiful books make perfect gifts or a treat for any book lover. This edition features an introduction by Helen Macdonald, author of the international bestseller, *H is for Hawk*.

Since poetry began, there have been poems about nature; it’s a complex subject which has inspired some of the most beautiful poetry ever written. Poets from Andrew Marvell to W. B. Yeats to Emily Brontë have sought to describe the natural environment and our relationship with it. There is also a rich tradition of songs and rhymes, such as ’Scarborough Fair’, that hark back to a rural way of life which may now be lost, but is brought back to life in the lyrical verses included in this collection.

Helen Macdonald is a writer, poet, illustrator and naturalist, and an affiliated research scholar at the Department of History and Philosophy of Science at the University of Cambridge. She is the author of the bestselling *H Is for Hawk*, as well as a cultural history of falcons, titled *Falcon*, and three collections of poetry, including *Shaler’s Fish*. Macdonald was a Research Fellow at Jesus College, Cambridge, has worked as a professional falconer, and has assisted with the management of raptor...
Poems for Travellers

A collection of classic travel poems introduced by acclaimed author, Paul Theroux.

Poems for Travellers transports the reader to lands far and near in the company of some of our greatest poets such as Walt Whitman, John Keats and Christina Rossetti.

Part of the Macmillan Collector’s Library, a series of stunning, clothbound, pocket-sized classics with gold-foiled edges and ribbon markers. These beautiful books make perfect gifts or a treat for any book lover.

As internationally acclaimed author Paul Theroux writes in his introduction, ‘Here is a collection of travel poetry composed by real travellers, weekending tourists, feverish fantasists, bluffers, dreamers, brave adventurers and resolute stay-at-homes. It succeeds in what poetry does best – inspires and consoles, reminds us of who we are, where we’ve been, and where we might want to go next.’

Paul Theroux has written many works of fiction and travel writing, including the modern classics The Great Railway Bazaar, The Old Patagonian Express, My Secret History, and The Mosquito Coast. He divides his time between Cape Cod and the Hawaiian islands.
Songs of Innocence and of Experience

William Blake

A beautiful colour illustrated edition of William Blake's most famous poems, with a foreword by Peter Harness.

William Blake’s Songs of Innocence and of Experience includes some of the visionary poet’s finest and best-loved poems such as 'The Lamb', 'The Chimney-Sweeper' and 'The Tiger'.

Part of the Macmillan Collector’s Library; a series of stunning, clothbound, pocket sized classics with gold foiled edges and ribbon markers. These beautiful books make perfect gifts or a treat for any book lover. This edition has a foreword by Peter Harness.

Blake’s work is instantly recognisable from its flamboyance and inventiveness. This gorgeous edition contains stunning reproductions of the fifty-four plates of the poems and illustrations together which Blake etched himself and coloured by hand. Each has the poem printed on the facing page. Whilst Songs of Innocence captures the innocence of childhood, Songs of Experience is its contrary sequel.

William Blake was born in London in 1757. He was apprenticed to a master engraver and then studied at the Royal Academy under the guidance of Joshua Reynolds. In 1789 he engraved and published Songs of Innocence and the contrasting Songs of Experience came later in 1794. A poet, painter and printmaker of great originality and imagination, his work was largely unrecognised during his lifetime and he struggled to make a living. Blake is now considered a seminal figure in the history of both the po...
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