

AMERICAN CLASSICS

Title: ADVENTURES OF HUCKLEBERRY FINN

Author: TWAIN, MARK

Original Date: 1884

Huck's famous adventures begin as he runs away from home and floats down the Mississippi River on a raft with Jim, a runaway slave. He encounters a variety of characters on the river and in the towns, and he faces a difficult moral challenge.

BR 09247 BR 10687 DB 43591 DB 57349 LB 00132 LB 04799

Title: ADVENTURES OF TOM SAWYER

Author: TWAIN, MARK

Original Date: 1876

The escapades and high jinks of schoolboy Tom Sawyer, who lives with his Aunt Polly in a small Missouri town on the Mississippi River. Tom angles for the affections of Becky Thatcher, runs away with Huck Finn and Joe Harper, and tells the truth when it matters. First published in 1876.

BR 11823 DB 15223 DB 53084 LB 04729

Title: ALL THE KING'S MEN

Author: WARREN, ROBERT PENN, 1905-1989

Original Date: 1946

Novel about a political boss in a Southern state who started as a backcountry lawyer and rose to become governor of the state with nearly absolute political power. Strong language. Pulitzer Prize. 1946.

BR 13840 DB 12200 DB 53553

Title: BEST OF O. HENRY

Author: HENRY, O., 1862-1910

Original Date: 1992

Twenty-six short stories, originally published in the New York World newspaper, about city life in the early 1900s. Includes such well-known tales as "Gift of the Magi" and less familiar ones, such as "Memories of a Yellow Dog." While their themes vary, the stories share O. Henry's incisive humor, irony, and pathos.

BR 10794 DB 42891

Title: CALL OF THE WILD

Author: LONDON, JACK, 1876-1916

Original Date: 1903

Buck, a St. Bernard, is stolen and trained to be a sled dog in the Alaska gold fields. Abused by both men and dogs, Buck learns to fight ruthlessly until he finds in John Thornton a master he loves and respects. First published in 1903. (BR 9833 pub. in 1994.)

BR 09833 BR 12582 DB 49486 LB 04818

Title: CATCH-22

Author: HELLER, JOSEPH

Original Date: 1961

A grotesquely comic novel about the mad adventures of Captain Yossarian, a bombardier based in Italy during World War II, who tries to stay alive. Military rules make it impossible for anyone to achieve the combat quota necessary to quit flying. Yossarian and his buddies concoct ways to avoid the ridiculous orders of their officers. Strong language and descriptions of sex. Bestseller. 1961.

BR 11980 DB 18132 DB 48063

Title: CATCHER IN THE RYE

Author: SALINGER, J.D. (JEROME DAVID), 1919-2010

Original Date: 1951

As Christmas vacation begins, Holden Caulfield recounts his feelings and reactions to flunking out of Pencey, his third prep school. Instead of heading straight home, he wanders around New York City. This account of his adventures conveys his dismay at the adult world. Strong language. 1951.

BR 01617 BR 11909 DB 12335 DB 47480 LB 00182

Title: COMPLETE NOVELS: RED HARVEST, THE DAIN CURSE, THE MALTESE FALCON, THE GLASS KEY, THE THIN MAN

Author: HAMMETT, DASHIELL, 1894-1961

Original Date: 1934

Five classic mysteries originally published between 1929 and 1934, featuring hard-boiled detectives. Stories include "The Thin Man," which introduces the husband-and-wife team of Nick and Nora Charles, and "The Maltese Falcon" with Sam Spade. Some violence and some strong language.

BR 13021 DB 55472

Title: COMPLETE POEMS

Author: POE, EDGAR ALLAN, 1809-1849

Original Date: 1992

Poems by the famed nineteenth-century author whose tortured and unhappy life was reflected in his writings. Poe's works evoke a primal and lurid world of dreams. Includes "The Raven," which describes a man's nocturnal visitation by an eerie creature.

BR 14130 DB 45236

Title: COMPLETE STORIES

Author: POE, EDGAR ALLAN, 1809-1849

Original Date: 1992

Sixty-eight short stories by the nineteenth-century American master of the macabre. Contains familiar favorites such as "The Murders in the Rue Morgue," "The Gold Bug," and "The Pit and the Pendulum."

DB 44929

Title: COMPLETE STORIES

Author: O'CONNOR, FLANNERY

Original Date: 1971

Thirty-one original stories, chronologically arranged, that fuse comedy and tragedy in expressing the real spirit of the South. Translating moral and religious themes into living presences, O'Connor draws on her techniques of distortion and grotesque exaggeration to bring forth her revelations. 1971.

DB 15019

Title: COMPLETE TALES OF WASHINGTON IRVING

Author: IRVING, WASHINGTON, 1783-1859

Original Date: 1975

Sixty-one short stories by the prolific New Yorker Washington Irving (1783-1859), best known for "Rip Van Winkle" and "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow." The volume contains satires, ghost stories, and fables, many of them set in New York City and the Hudson Valley in the early days of Dutch settlement. Introduction by Charles Neider.

DB 11336 DB 51748

Title: CRUCIBLE: A PLAY IN FOUR ACTS

Author: MILLER, ARTHUR, 1915-2005

Original Date: 1952

A drama based on the Salem, Massachusetts, witchcraft trials of 1692. The play deals with the consequences of fear, insecurity, the power of suggestion, and the hounding to death of a nonconformist. 1952.

BT 03347 DB 32974

Title: DEATH COMES FOR THE ARCHBISHOP

Author: CATHER, WILLA, 1873-1947

Original Date: 1927

A tale about the exploits of Bishop Jean Latour and Father Joseph Vaillant, French Catholic priests who organized pioneer and Indian missions throughout the newly created diocese of New Mexico in the second half of the nineteenth century. 1927.

BR 00816 BR 14859 DB 15290 DB 56535 LB 03128

Title: DEATH OF A SALESMAN: CERTAIN PRIVATE CONVERSATIONS IN TWO ACTS AND A requiem

Author: MILLER, ARTHUR, 1915-2005

Original Date: 1949

A modern drama that indicts the optimism and materialism of American society. Willy Loman, a traveling salesman, experiences a profound sense of failure as he recognizes signs of aging in himself and decides to take stock of his accomplishments. Pulitzer Prize.

BR 02719 DB 23130

Title: DEERSLAYER

Author: COOPER, JAMES FENIMORE, 1789-1851

Original Date: 1841

A tale of warfare between the Iroquois Indians and the white settlers near Lake Otsego before 1745. The chief characters are Hawkeye, Uncas, and the two sisters, Judith and Hetty, who defy the Indians in an attempt to rescue Hawkeye. Followed by "The Last of the Mohicans" (DB 19920). 1841.

DB 22249 LB 04813

Title: FAHRENHEIT 451

Author: BRADBURY, RAY, 1920-2012

Original Date: 1953

Social satire set in the future, when owning or reading books is a crime. Guy Montag, the fireman-hero, becomes a fugitive when he succumbs to temptation. Some strong language

DB 34963 LB 05974

Title: FAREWELL TO ARMS

Author: HEMINGWAY, ERNEST

Original Date: 1929

An American lieutenant serving in the ambulance service in Italy falls in love with an English nurse during World War I. Their love story is told in poetic language and with austere realism to present a powerful argument against war. 1929.

BR 12510 DB 10857 DB 49506

Title: GONE WITH THE WIND

Author: MITCHELL, MARGARET, 1900-1949

Original Date: 1936

A Civil War epic in which Scarlett O'Hara, a forceful and ruthless heroine, and Rhett Butler, a war profiteer, play out their tempestuous love affair against the background of the war torn South. Pulitzer Prize 1937.

BR 01609 BR 08519 BR 11427 DB 07069 DB 33082

Title: GRAPES OF WRATH

Author: STEINBECK, JOHN, 1902-1968

Original Date: 1939

Pulitzer Prize-winning story of the Joads from Oklahoma, who, along with other families during the Great Depression, are driven from their dust-bowl farms by the encroachment of large agricultural interests. They set out, like generations before them, to the promised land of California to find work. Instead, they face organized opposition to their struggle to survive. Strong language.

BR 01621 BR 09954 DB 68308 LB 00233 LB 06026

Title: GREAT GATSBY

Author: FITZGERALD, F. SCOTT, 1896-1940

Original Date: 1925

First published in 1925, this classic is set in the ebullient Jazz Age of the 1920s. Wealthy Jay Gatsby strives desperately to recapture his past and his lost love, Daisy Buchanan. Gatsby's hedonistic pursuit of the American dream leads him to a tragic fate.

BR 00089 BR 11057 DB 16147 DB 55714

Title: HEART IS A LONELY HUNTER

Author: MCCULLERS, CARSON, 1917-1967

Original Date: 1940

Deep South, 1930s. John Singer, who is deaf and mute, feels content until his best friend, also mute, is committed to a mental institution. Singer, who can read lips, becomes the confidante of several town residents, all of whom want answers to their problems. Some strong language. 1940.

BR 11395 DB 58532

Title: HOUSE OF THE SEVEN GABLES

Author: HAWTHORNE, NATHANIEL, 1804-1864

Original Date: 1851

A novel, first published in 1851, describing the fortunes of a decayed New England family, the Pyncheons. The interaction between family members is based on past mistakes and misdeeds, the consequences of which were incalculable, but which now dictate their lives. [RC 17947 pub. 1961. BR 1598 pub. 1950 has an introductory biographical sketch of the author by Basil Davenport.]

BR 01598 BR 12720 DB 17947 DB 53471

Title: HOUSE ON MANGO STREET

Author: CISNEROS, SANDRA

Original Date: 1984

A series of vignettes introduces the friends and family of the narrator, Esperanza, who lives on Mango Street in the Puerto Rican section of Chicago. In this transient neighborhood of people speaking a mixture of Spanish and English, Esperanza, whose name means "hope," learns to cope with being an out-of-step girl by telling stories. 1989.

DB 35608

Title: INVISIBLE MAN

Author: ELLISON, RALPH

Original Date: 1947

Classic novel of man's search for identity. Follows a young black man from his youth in a Southern town through the Depression years in Harlem, where he examines and rejects the values thrust on him by both whites and blacks.

National Book Award. 1947.

BR 08550 BR 14988 DB 56346

Title: JUNGLE

Author: SINCLAIR, UPTON

Original Date: 1906

Published in 1906, this novel aroused the indignation of the American public and forced a government investigation that led to passage of the pure food laws. Vividly depicts factory life in the meatpacking industry as seen through the eyes of a young immigrant. Violence. (BR 650, pub. 1965, has a new preface by the author.)

BR 00650 BR 13742 DB 52961 LB 06454

Title: LITTLE WOMEN

Author: ALCOTT, LOUISA MAY, 1832-1888

Original Date: 1868

The author's home life in New England is the basis for this tale of the four March sisters—quick-tempered Jo, who is restless for freedom; Beth, who loves her home and family; Meg, who longs for pretty clothes; and self-absorbed Amy.

BR 11778 DB 18128 DB 58830 LB 04732

Title: LONESOME DOVE: A NOVEL

Author: MCMURTRY, LARRY

Original Date: 1985

A three-thousand-mile cattle drive, from the banks of the Rio Grande to Montana's big sky country, is the setting for this vivid epic, which describes the developing American West and the ranchers, cowboys, prostitutes, and adventurers who attempt to make a new life for themselves in its vast reaches. Strong language, violence, and some descriptions of sex. Bestseller 1985. Pulitzer Prize 1986.

BR 06198 0 BR 13696 DB 22959

Title: MOBY DICK; OR, THE WHALE

Author: MELVILLE, HERMAN, 1819-1891

Original Date: 1851

Seeking adventure, Ishmael signs on as a harpooner with Captain Ahab's whaling ship. Once at sea, the crew discovers that Captain Ahab is obsessed with killing Moby Dick, the white whale responsible for his missing leg.

BR 01608 BR 14641 DB 34184 LB 00359

Title: MY ANTONIA

Author: CATHER, WILLA, 1873-1947

Original Date: 1954

A lawyer recalls his Nebraska boyhood and the girl who was a strong influence on his life in this novel about pioneering conditions and the assimilation of immigrants. BR 11320 contains a historical essay by James Woodress that describes the origin, writing, and reception of the book.

BR 11320 DB 13491 LB 00180

Title: OF MICE AND MEN

Author: STEINBECK, JOHN, 1902-1968

Original Date: 1937

Lennie, strong but feeble-minded, and George, his responsible friend, are two itinerant laborers during the depression who dream of owning their own farm. Their hopes are shattered when Lennie accidentally kills the boss's daughter-in-law. Strong language.

BT 03345 DB 12212 DB 48515 LB 04513

Title: ON THE ROAD

Author: KEROUAC, JACK, 1922-1969

Original Date: 1957

A group of young people epitomize the beat generation as they roam the American continent in a wild, desperate search for identity and purpose. Strong language and explicit descriptions of sex.

BR 18352 DB 31675

Title: POETRY OF ROBERT FROST: THE COLLECTED POEMS, COMPLETE AND UNABRIDGED

Author: FROST, ROBERT

Original Date: 1979

Clear, simple poetry sings of rural, democratic joys and the love of nature. Writing in traditional verse forms, however, the poet creates a tension of thought and feeling. For Frost, the poem is "a momentary stay against confusion."

DB 18824

Title: RAISIN IN THE SUN: A DRAMA IN THREE ACTS

Author: HANSBERRY, LORRAINE

Original Date: 1958

A middle-class black family in Chicago, torn by tensions and discontent, suffer further when they receive a life insurance settlement. No one can agree on what should be done with the money. 1958.

DB 43547

Title: RED BADGE OF COURAGE: AN EPISODE OF THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR

Author: CRANE, STEPHEN

Original Date: 1895

This new edition of an American classic has been recovered, as nearly as possible, from the author's final handwritten manuscript. It includes many key passages, phrases, and words, and an entire chapter that were deleted from the 1895 edition. The story itself, the first unromanticized novel of the Civil War to attain popularity, portrays a young boy enduring the test of battle in wonder and terror.

BR 01449 BR 13144 DB 22405 LB 00010

Title: RIDERS OF THE PURPLE SAGE

Author: GREY, ZANE, 1872-1939

Original Date: 1920

A story of hairbreadth escapes from Mormon vengeance in southwestern Utah in 1871. When Jane Withersteen incurs the wrath of her fellow Mormons for befriending Gentiles, gunman Lassiter comes to her aid and makes a startling personal discovery. Violence.

BR 12559 DB 17362 DB 49208 LB 02239

Title: SCARLET LETTER

Author: HAWTHORNE, NATHANIEL, 1804-1864

Original Date: 1850

First published in 1850, this symbolic novel set in Puritan New England traces the effects of sin on people's lives. Hester Prynne is forced to display her transgression openly in the form of a scarlet letter "A" for adultery. Her husband is obsessed with revenge, and her lover, a minister, conceals his guilt and shame.

BR 09407 BT 01057 DB 13499 DB 48457

Title: SELECTED SHORT STORIES OF WILLIAM FAULKNER

Author: FAULKNER, WILLIAM, 1897-1962

Original Date: 1993

Thirteen short stories (most written in the 1930s) by the Nobel Prize-winning American novelist. In "Barn Burning," a man burns his enemies' barns, and his son tries to warn the victims. "That Evening Sun" recounts the tale of a black laundress who fears her lover after he learns she is pregnant by a white man. In "A Rose for Emily," a woman hides the corpse of her lover in an upstairs room.

BR 10343 DB 41229

Title: SLAUGHTERHOUSE-FIVE; OR, THE CHILDREN'S CRUSADE: A DUTY-DANCE WITH DEATH

Author: VONNEGUT, KURT

Original Date: 1968

Billy Pilgrim, adrift in time, randomly revisits past and present manifestations: senile widower stalked by an assassin, hopeful young newlywed, giraffe on the planet Tralfamadore—where time is an illusion—and, most crucially, American POW during the firebombing of Dresden in World War II. Strong language. 1969.

BR 17373 DB 64540

Title: SUN ALSO RISES

Author: HEMINGWAY, ERNEST, 1899-1961

Original Date: 1926

A wealthy group of English and American expatriates in post-World War I Europe move from the boulevards of Paris to the bullfights of Spain. The disillusioned characters are a reflection of the war-weary generation of the 1920s. [Large print title reads “Fiesta”—this was the title given to this book when published outside of the United States.]

BR 03615 BR 16853 DB 13421 DB 34114 LB 04118

Title: THEIR EYES WERE WATCHING GOD

Author: HURSTON, ZORA NEALE

Original Date: 1937

This classic novel tells the story of Janie, a handsome black woman, and her three marriages: to middle-aged Logan Killicks, a prosperous farmer; to Joe Starks, a go-getter who makes Janie Mrs. Mayor Starks of Eatonville, Florida; and to Tea Cake Woods, who teaches Janie, at forty, the reality of love and happiness. 1937.

BR 16074 DB 35745

Title: TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD

Author: LEE, HARPER

Original Date: 1960

Six-year-old Scout and her brother Jem are intrigued by their reclusive neighbor. Meanwhile, their father Atticus, an attorney, defends a black man charged with raping a white woman in their small Alabama town. Some violence and some strong language. Pulitzer Prize. 1960.

BR 12850 DB 36414 DB 77672

Title: TREE GROWS IN BROOKLYN

Author: SMITH, BETTY

Original Date: 1943

A novel about Francie Nolan, an Irish-American girl's childhood and youth, her struggles with poverty, and her work to get an education. The setting is Brooklyn's tenement life of the early 1900s. 1943.

BR 01620 DB 10426 DB 44769 LB 03212

Title: UNCLE TOM'S CABIN

Author: STOWE, HARRIET BEECHER, 1811-1896

Original Date: 1852

First published in 1852, this famous tale of slavery recounts the hardships of Uncle Tom, who is later sold to the brutal Simon Legree, of gentle Little Eva, and of Eliza and her child, who escape from the bloodhounds. 1974. [BR 1623, pub. 1948, has an introduction by Raymond Weaver.]

BR 01623 BR 12749 DB 09480 DB 50070

Title: WALDEN, OR, LIFE IN THE WOODS: AND, ON THE DUTY OF CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE

Author: THOREAU, HENRY DAVID, 1817-1862

Original Date: 1854

Autobiography recording the author's experiment in essential living at his Walden Pond retreat in the 1850s, along with detailed observations of nature and his commentaries on world problems. His essay "Civil Disobedience" is a protest against government's interference with individual liberty.

BR 00062 BR 12576 DB 50835 LB 00266