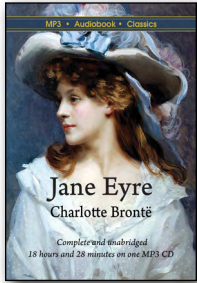


British Fiction



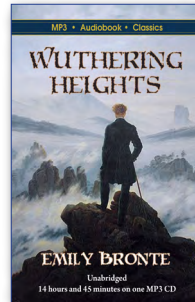
Jane Eyre

Author: Charlotte Brontë (1816 - 1855)
Read by: Elizabeth Klett
Length: 18 hours 28 minutes
Format: MP3 CD in DVD case
Genre: Romance

Jane Eyre (1847) charts the life of the title character through five phases in the first person narrative. Jane is first seen as a young orphan in the care of a cruel aunt, who sends her away to a harsh private school. After graduation and two years as a schoolteacher she takes a position as a governess at the estate of Mr. Rochester, which leads to an offer of marriage that is undone by an unfortunate discovery. She leaves, is taken in by strangers who turn out to be relatives, and inherits small fortune. After spurning another offer of marriage, she impulsively returns to Rochester, with whom she reunites. The events of the novel are seen strictly through Jane's eyes; as such, the book helped revolutionize the art of the novel and stands as an early example of the bildungsroman. Many consider *Jane Eyre* to be ahead of its time not only in form but in its social criticism and explorations of class, religion, and an emerging feminist perspective.

Catalog: DB-1008
UPC: 0684758935953
MSLP: \$11.99

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Wuthering Heights

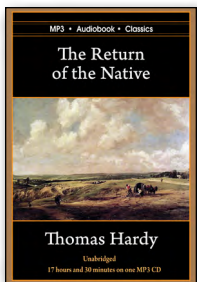
Author: Emily Brontë (1818 - 1848)
Read by: Ruth Golding
Length: 14 hours 45 minutes
Format: MP3 CD in DVD case
Genre: Romance

In times of Romanticism the world seeks to renew itself in the aftermath of some devastation. Genius seeks to challenge the old ways that had brought it all about. Emily Brontë's *Wuthering Heights* (1847), written when the author was 29, was first published under the pseudonym Ellis Bell following the success of her sister Charlotte's *Jane Eyre*. Her first and only novel, it represents the effulgence of late-Romanticism, an expression of the dark side of the heart with its jealousies and vengefulness. It took a young soul equipped with genius to wrestle with those internal and transcendent powers that drive the individual and spurn the committee. Emily Brontë

Catalog: DB-1009
UPC: 0684758935960
MSLP: \$11.99

was equal to the task and placed her efforts on a moor of the collective consciousness where one doesn't just love another person; but one is that person. Now a classic, *Wuthering Heights* received mixed reviews at first, due to its unusually frank and stark depiction of physical and mental cruelty, religious hypocrisy, and class and gender inequality that challenged the strict Victorian mores of the day.

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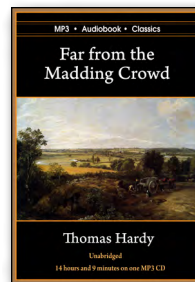
The Return of the Native

Author: Thomas Hardy
Read by: Multiple readers
Format: MP3 CD in DVD case
Length: 17 hours 30 minutes
Genre: Fiction

The Return of the Native was Thomas Hardy's sixth novel. It was initially structured in the format of classical tragedy into five books, but a sixth book with a happy ending was added to accommodate the demands of the market. The story commences on Guy Fawkes Day and takes place over the course of a year and a day in which the characters carry on a series of illicit relationships that undergo changes of heart and unexpected twists of fate. The setting of the pagan Egdon Heath and the Greek chorus of the townspeople reinforce

Catalog: DB-1032
UPC: 0683422134180
MSLP: \$11.99

the sense of inescapable destiny and the message that those who try to escape will only hasten their self-destruction. Some comfort is taken in the end as the patient, meek and kind find peace and prosperity. *The Return of the Native* has become one of Hardy's most popular novels, not surprisingly, as its storyline and issues it raises could be right at home in contemporary media.



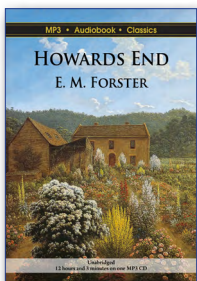
Far from the Madding Crowd

Author: Thomas Hardy
Read by: Tad Hg
Format: MP3 CD in DVD case
Length: 14 hours 9 minutes
Genre: Fiction

The heroine of *Far From the Madding Crowd* (1874) is Bathsheba Everdene, a newcomer to the Wessex countryside who has come to live with her aunt. In short order she has three suitors: Gabriel Oak, a young shepherd; William Boldwood, an older, prosperous farmer; and Sergeant Frank Troy, retiring after military service, whom she marries. Troy is a gambler romantically attached to another. The hand of fate intervenes, secrets are revealed, and conflicts lead to desperate measures. Two of the three rivals come to grief, and Bathsheba finally sees the light of her one true friend just as he is set to depart for California. *Far From the Madding Crowd*, which takes its title from Thomas Gray's "Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard", was Hardy's first major success. It ranks 48th on the BBC's "Big Read" list of the best-loved novels of all time and 10th on the Guardian's list of the greatest love stories of all time. It has been adapted frequently for stage and screen, most recently in the 2015 David Nicholls film.

Catalog: DB-1113
UPC: 0683422134197
MSLP: \$11.99

The heroine of *Far From the Madding Crowd* (1874) is Bathsheba Everdene, a newcomer to the Wessex countryside who has come to live with her aunt. In short order she has three suitors: Gabriel Oak, a young shepherd; William Boldwood, an older, prosperous farmer; and Sergeant Frank Troy, retiring after military service, whom she marries. Troy is a gambler romantically attached to another. The hand of fate intervenes, secrets are revealed, and conflicts lead to desperate measures. Two of the three rivals come to grief, and Bathsheba finally sees the light of her one true friend just as he is set to depart for California. *Far From the Madding Crowd*, which takes its title from Thomas Gray's "Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard", was Hardy's first major success. It ranks 48th on the BBC's "Big Read" list of the best-loved novels of all time and 10th on the Guardian's list of the greatest love stories of all time. It has been adapted frequently for stage and screen, most recently in the 2015 David Nicholls film.



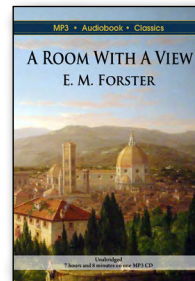
Howards End

Author: E. M. Forster (1879 - 1970)
Read by: Elizabeth Klett
Length: 12 hours 3 minutes
Format: MP3 CD in DVD case
Genre: Fiction

Howards End intertwines the lives of three families in early 20th century England. The idealistic and intellectual Schlegel siblings, Margaret, Tibby and Helen, are deeply involved with modern art and social progress. The Wilcoxes are well-to-do capitalists with interests in the colonies; the matriarch, Ruth, owns a country known as Howards End. The Basts, the struggling clerk Leonard and his wife Jacky, a "fallen woman, eke out a lower class living. The events of the complex plot places the characters in one another's lives in surprising and challenging ways. Alliances are formed, mistakes made, confidences betrayed, and reality clashes repeatedly with the dictates of social convention and codes of behavior. Published in 1910, *Howards End* is considered Forster's masterpiece by many. Emma Thompson won an Academy Award for her portrayal of Margaret Schlegel in the 1992 Merchant-Ivory film. The Modern Library places it 38th on its list of the best English-language novels of the 20th century.

Catalog: DB-1093
UPC: 0684758936714
MSLP: \$11.99

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A Room with a View

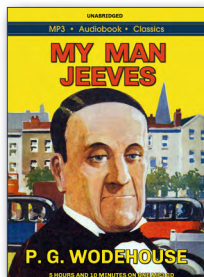
Author: E. M. Forster (1879 - 1970)
Read by: Elizabeth Klett
Format: MP3 CD in DVD case
Length: 7 hours 8 minutes
Genre: Fiction

A Room with a View portrays the issues that the adventurous young Lucy Honeychurch faces as she journeys to Florence and Rome with her stuffy older cousin Charlotte as chaperone. An upper middle class Englishwoman, her strong independent streak leads her into situations that challenge the strict codes of conduct and social expectations of Edwardian England. It is a novel of binary opposites. Set in both Italy and England, we see the contrast between the warm, colorful, sensual Italy with the chilly, dark English culture. Conservative characters are static, stuck in rooms, while dynamic characters are modern, progressive, open to the winds of change. It is a romantic and optimistic work: as Lucy moves away from her protected life she eventually charts her own course with the partner she loves. *A Room with a View* was made into an award-winning film by the team of Merchant-Ivory in 1985. The Modern Library ranks it 79th on its list of the 100 best English-language novels of the 20th century.

Catalog: DB-1094
UPC: 0684758936721
MSLP: \$9.99

A Room with a View portrays the issues that the adventurous young Lucy Honeychurch faces as she journeys to Florence and Rome with her stuffy older cousin Charlotte as chaperone. An upper middle class Englishwoman, her strong independent streak leads her into situations that challenge the strict codes of conduct and social expectations of Edwardian England. It is a novel of binary opposites. Set in both Italy and England, we see the contrast between the warm, colorful, sensual Italy with the chilly, dark English culture. Conservative characters are static, stuck in rooms, while dynamic characters are modern, progressive, open to the winds of change. It is a romantic and optimistic work: as Lucy moves away from her protected life she eventually charts her own course with the partner she loves. *A Room with a View* was made into an award-winning film by the team of Merchant-Ivory in 1985. The Modern Library ranks it 79th on its list of the 100 best English-language novels of the 20th century.

British Fiction



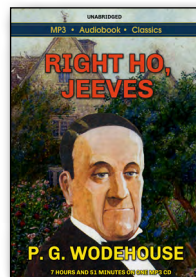
My Man Jeeves

Author: P. G. Wodehouse (1881 - 1975)
 Read by: Mark Nelson
 Format: MP3 CD in DVD case
 Length: 5 hours and 10 minutes
 Genre: Humorous Fiction

My Man Jeeves (1919) is the first in a series of sixteen immensely popular books by P. G. Wodehouse featuring the unflappable character of Reginald Jeeves, valet to the wealthy, idle, and often chuckle-headed British aristocrat Bertie Wooster. All are narrated by Bertie and take place in the world of the upper class in the years between the world wars in London's gentlemen's clubs, stately English country homes, and the café society of New York in the jazz

Catalog: DB-1178
 UPC: 0683422134999
 MSLP: \$9.99

age. Jeeves is the consummate manservant, with a clear idea of proper dress and comportment, impeccable taste, an encyclopedic knowledge of history, literature and the sciences, and a wealth of knowledge of the ways of the world coupled with a lively ingenuity. He serves as Bertie's all-purpose guardian angel, finding ways to rescue Bertie from suffocating social situations, fashion gaffes, scrapes with the law, overbearing relatives, and problems in dealing with the fair sex, operating discreetly in the background until the inevitable revelations occur.



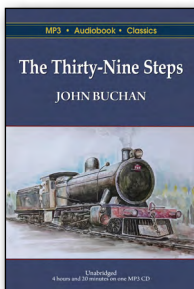
Right Ho, Jeeves

Author: P. G. Wodehouse (1881 - 1975)
 Read by: Mark Nelson
 Format: MP3 CD in DVD case
 Length: 7 hours and 51 minutes
 Genre: Humorous Fiction

Right Ho, Jeeves (1934) is the second novel featuring the unflappable character of Reginald Jeeves, valet to ditsy British aristocrat Bertie Wooster. Set mostly at the English country home of Bertie's Aunt Dahlia, the story centers on a pair of romantic pairings. Things are set in motion when Bertie visits to comfort his aunt after his cousin breaks her engagement and discovers that she has lost considerable sums at the gaming tables at Cannes, which

Catalog: DB-1179
 UPC: 0683422135002
 MSLP: \$9.99

threatens her ability to finance her magazine, *Milady's Boudoir*. Bertie dispenses questionable advice to all parties, things unravel in classic screwball comedy style, and at the height of the chaos Bertie throws in the towel and calls on Jeeves, his all-purpose guardian angel. Jeeves manages to get Bertie out of the way for a few hours, during which time he quickly solves all the problems. The novel is considered by many to be the best in the Jeeves canon of eleven novels.



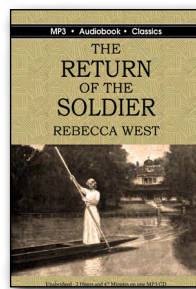
The Thirty-Nine Steps

Author: John Buchan (1875-1940)
 Read by: Adrian Praetzelis
 Format: MP3 CD in DVD case
 Length: 4 hours and 20 minutes
 Genre: Fiction, Mystery & Detective Fiction

The Thirty-Nine Steps is a classic political thriller and one of the earliest examples of the "man-on-the-run" plot archetype. Set on the eve of World War I, expatriate Scotsman Richard Hannay has just returned from a stint in Rhodesia and settled in London when he encounters an American freelance spy who tells of an anarchist plot to assassinate the Greek Premier and destabilize Europe. After two murders in his building he is forced to flee to southwest Scotland but is pursued by police, who suspect his involvement.

Catalog: DB-1233
 UPC: 0701236969528
 MSLP: \$9.99

After numerous surprising twists of fate, chases and escapes, we find him with a group of British military in a coastal village in Kent descending the thirty-nine steps down a path in a cliff to apprehend a group of German spies about to abscond with key British secrets. Serialized in *Blackwoods Magazine* and published in book form in 1915, the story was a big hit with the soldiers in the trenches and the general public. It has been adapted for radio five times and four times for the cinema and television, most recently in 2008 by the BBC, and appears on the BBC's Big Read poll of the "best-loved novels" in the UK.



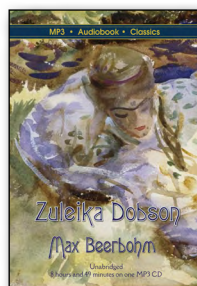
The Return of the Soldier

Author: Rebecca West
 Read by: Elizabeth Klett
 Format: MP3 CD in DVD case
 Length: 2 hours and 47 minutes
 Genre: Fiction, Historical Fiction

The Return of the Soldier is the first novel written by Rebecca West. Published in 1918, it was the first novel about the repercussions of the war for returning soldiers and the only novel written by a woman about the war during the war. The returning soldier is Chris Baldry, an upper class English gentleman who returns from the trenches suffering from shell shock and memory loss. He is stuck at age 20, has lost his memory of the ensuing fifteen years, which encompass his

Catalog: DB-1226
 UPC: 0701236969450
 MSLP: \$9.99

marriage and the loss of his son, and is fixated on a woman with whom he had once had a summer fling. The story is told from the somewhat limited and unreliable perspective of his cousin Jenny in a non-linear, modernist style. A sense of displacement and uncertainty is pervasive, as is the influence of memory and sexual desire. The reappearance of Margaret, the summer lover, along with the efforts of a psychoanalyst and key artifacts of the past lead to Baldry's eventual recovery. *The Return of the Soldier* was made into a film by the same name in 1982 starring Alan Bates and co-starring Julie Christie, Ian Holm, Glenda Jackson and Ann-Margret.



Zuleika Dobson, or, an Oxford love story

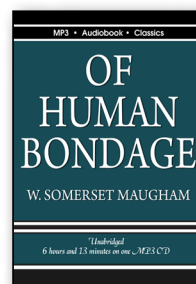
Author: Max Beerbohm (1872 - 1956)
 Read by: Termin Dyan
 Format: MP3 CD in DVD case
 Length: 8 hours and 49 minutes
 Genre: Fiction, Satire

Zuleika Dobson (1911) is a satirical novel that recounts the contagion of lovesickness created by the title character, a guest of her grandfather, the Warden of Judas College at Oxford. She meets the haughty Duke of Dorset and, much to her surprise, falls in love for the first time. The Duke is smitten for the first time as well, which throws a wet blanket on her ardor, as she cannot love anyone who is not immune to her spell. The

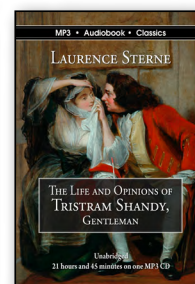
Catalog: DB-1140
 UPC: 0683422134401
 MSLP: \$11.99

Duke resolves to commit suicide to teach her to constrain her powers of attraction, and soon the entire student body resolves to do the same. The Duke reverses his decision, but chance and fate intervene, and all but one of the entire student body drowns in a storm during the boat races. The closing scene has Zuleika boarding a special train for her next visit – Cambridge. *Zuleika Dobson* was ranked 59th on the 1998 Modern Library list of 100 best English-language novels of the 20th century.

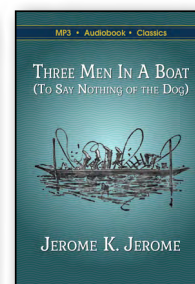
British Fiction Coming Spring 2018



Of Human Bondage
 W. Somerset Maugham



The Life and Times of
 Tristram Shandy,
 Gentleman
 Laurence Sterne



Three Men in a Boat
 Jerome K. Jerome