



Ulysses (Oxford World's Classics)

James Joyce

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One of the greatest novels of the twentieth century, Ulysses has had a profound influence o....

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1056 pages

Amazon Review

Ulysses has been labelled dirty, blasphemous and unreadable. In a famous 1933 court decision, Judge John M. Woolsey declared it an emetic book--although he found it not quite obscene enough to disallow its importation into the United States--and Virginia Woolf was moved to decry James Joyce's "cloacal obsession". None of these descriptions, however, do the slightest justice to the novel. To this day it remains *the* modernist masterpiece, in which the author takes both Celtic lyricism and vulgarity to splendid extremes. It is funny, sorrowful, and even (in its own way) suspenseful. And despite the exegetical industry that has sprung up in the last 75 years, *Ulysses* is also a compulsively readable book. Even the verbal vaudeville of the final chapters can be navigated with relative ease, as long as you're willing to be buffeted, tickled, challenged and (occasionally) vexed by Joyce's astonishing command of the English language. Among other things, a novel is simply a long story, and the first question about any story is "What happens?" In the case of *Ulysses*, the answer could be "Everything". William Blake, one of literature's sublime myopics, saw the universe in a grain of sand. Joyce saw it in Dublin, Ireland, on June 16, 1904, a day distinguished by its utter normality. Two characters, Stephen Dedalus and Leopold Bloom, go about their separate business, crossing paths with a gallery of inforgettable Dubliners. We watch them teach, eat, loiter, argue and (in Bloom's case) masturbate. And thanks to the book's stream- of-consciousness technique--which suggests no mere stream but an impossibly deep, swift-running river-- we're privy to their thoughts, emotions and memories. The result? Almost every variety of human experience is crammed into the accordion-folds of a single day, which makes *Ulysses* not just an experimental work but the very last word in realism. Both characters add their glorious intonations to the music of Joyce's prose. Dedalus's accent--that of a freelance aesthete, who dabbles here and there in what we might call "Early Yeats Lite"-- will be familiar to readers of *Portrait of an Artist As a Young Man*. But Bloom's wistful sensualism (and naïve curiosity) is something else entirely. Seen through his eyes, a rundown corner of a Dublin graveyard is a figure for hope and hopelessness, mortality and dogged survival: "Mr Bloom walked unheeded along his grove by saddened angels, crosses, broken pillars, family vaults, stone hopes praying with upcast eyes, old Ireland's hearts and hands. More sensible to spend the money on some charity for the living. Pray for the repose of the soul of. Does anybody really?"

--James Marcus Review

'one of the greatest novels of the twentieth century ... this edition, complete with an invaluable Introduction, map of Dublin, notes, and appendices, republishes for the first time, without interference, the original 1922 text. In Dublin

'After more than seventy years of editorial corrections, specialists will buy the 'uncorrected' edition for its accuracy. Others should choose it as much for Johnson's excellent introduction and notes. Tim Kendall.

Hertford College, Oxford. Notes and Queries

For anyone coming to this 20th century classic for the first time, this paperback version could well make the going a little easier. (*Lancashire Evening Post (Preston)*)

Already got a copy of *Ulysses*. Well, chuck it out and get this ... this is the one, a reproduction of the original 1922 Shakespeare & Co edition ... has extensive notes at the back to explain references and correct gaffes ... Also astonishingly cheap. (*Nicholas Lezard, The Guardian*)

now the cheapest annotated paperback available and comes with a splendid introduction from Jeri Johnson, a map of contemporary Dublin, and a comprehensive set of explanatory notes ... As such, it should appeal both to those who are familiar with Joyce's book, and those who are approaching it for the first time. (*Yorkshire Post (Leeds)*)

hilarious, poignant, exhilarating ... The excellent guide, editor Jeri Johnson, refuses to allow short cuts for first-time travellers ... The detailed notes are useful ... the ideal way to set off on your personal odyssey. (*The Times*)

For anyone coming to this 20th century classic for the first time, this paperback version could well make the going a little easier. (*West Lancashire Evening Gazette*)

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Redesigned edition of classic from leading Joyce expert

Ulysses is unquestionably one of the most celebrated novels in the English language, and the text most expressive of the psyche of modern man and woman. It tells the sadly comic story of Leopold Bloom, a good man led by love, who on an otherwise ordinary day is forced to contemplate the void of uncertainty in which we all stand. Danis Rose, one of the world's leading experts on James Joyce, has produced a timely reappraisal of the history of Joyce's writing - a Ulysses for our time. "A fine and loyal act of restoration"

Robert McCrum, Observer; "This edition may be the handy, usable Ulysses that we have been waiting for"

Fritz Senn, Director, Zurich James Joyce Foundation

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