

Alma Books

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Juvenile Fiction / General • Ages 9-11 years

ALMA BOOKS  
A PUBLISHER WITH A SOUL

## How to Get Rid of a Vampire (Using Ketchup, Garlic Cloves and a Bit of Imagination)

by J.M. Erre, translated by Sander Berg

Zazie has just received a beautiful new notebook, and decides to keep a diary. Brimming with imagination, she writes down her impressions of her cat Roudoudou, her awful cousin Lucas and her new teacher, Mr Labat - who, with his pale skin and blood-red lips, must surely be a vampire! In order to save her life and those of her classmates, Zazie must find a way to get rid of Mr Labat - and what better way than by following the advice found in Bram Stoker's *Dracula*! Sparkling, funny and a bit wacky, *How to Get Rid of a Vampire (Using Ketchup, Garlic Cloves and a Bit of Imagination)* is as entertaining and original as its brave and loveable heroine.

The voice of the main character, Zazie, is really original and funny. I am sure lots of young readers will fall in love with her." - Elisabetta Minervini, Publisher"

### Author Bio

Jean-Marcel Erre was born in the south of France in 1971, and works as a teacher in Montpellier. He also writes novels, TV sketches and screenplays.



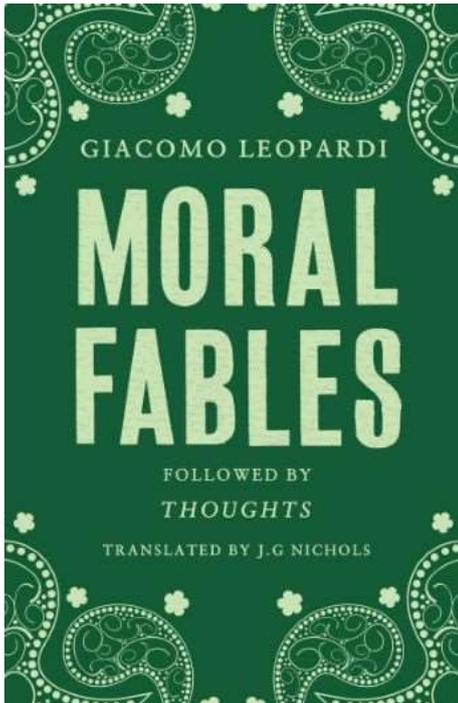
## Moral Fables

by Giacomo Leopardi, translated by J.G. Nichols

Alongside his monumental Notebooks and the poems collected in *Canti*, which make him one of Italy's greatest and best-loved poets, Giacomo Leopardi penned a number of fictional pieces, mostly in the form of gently humorous dialogues, in which he dealt with philosophical ideas and many of the metaphysical questions that preoccupied his restless spirit. First published in 1827 and here presented in a new translation by J.G. Nichols along with *Thoughts*, Leopardi's own selected pearls of wisdom and gems of social observation, this volume will enchant both those who are familiar with and those who are new to the works of Italy's last great polymath.

## Author Bio

Giacomo Leopardi was born in Recanati, a small town in the Italian Marches, in 1798. Renowned in his youth as a classical scholar, he suffered from poor health all his life and never experienced happiness in love. He visited Rome, Bologna, and Florence, but never fully broke away from his family, until in his last years he finally moved with a friend to Naples, where he died in 1837. He is the author of *Zibaldone*.



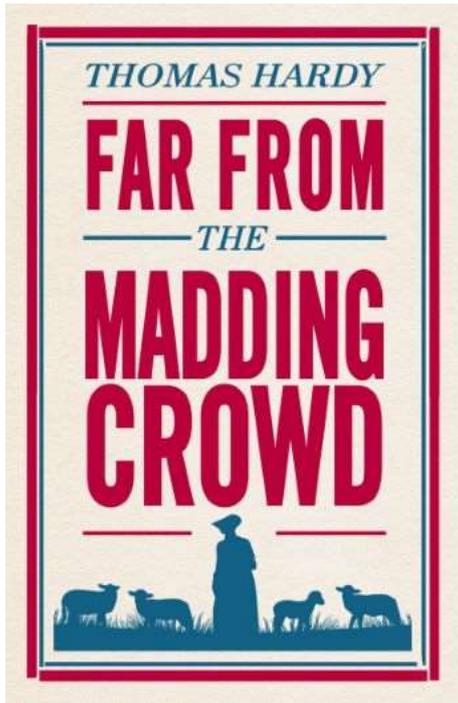
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Fiction / Classics



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## Far From the Madding Crowd

by Thomas Hardy

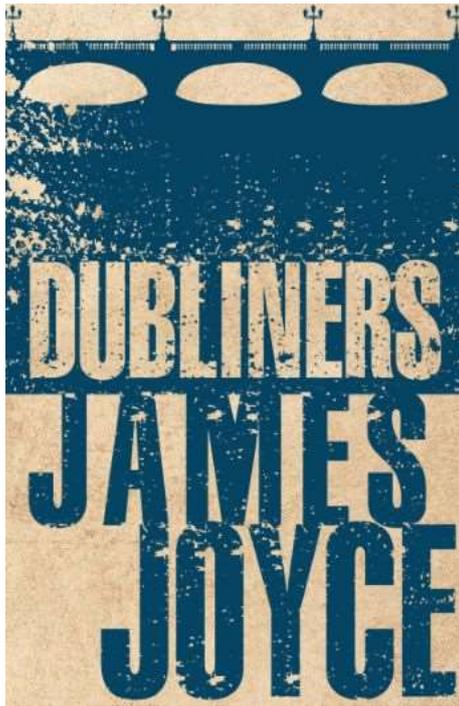
Bathsheba Everdene is a headstrong young woman who attracts the attentions of a succession of ill-matched suitors: a quiet sheep farmer, a handsome soldier and an older, wealthy landowner. As the men vie for her affections, she struggles to retain her independence of spirit in the face of their declarations.

Introducing readers to the fictional county of Wessex, Thomas Hardy's fourth work of fiction was one of his greatest triumphs, both commercially and critically. Its tale of passion, jealousy and unrequited love is now regarded as one of the finest novels of the nineteenth century, and one of the greatest love stories of all time.

*Far from the Madding Crowd* is the first of Thomas Hardy's great novels, and the first to sound the tragic note for which his fiction is best remembered." - Margaret Drabble"

### Author Bio

Thomas Hardy was an English novelist, short story writer, and poet of the naturalist movement, though he saw himself as a poet and wrote novels mainly for financial gain only. The bulk of his work, set mainly in the semi-imaginary county of Wessex, delineates characters struggling against their passions and circumstances.



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## Dubliners

by James Joyce

James Joyce's first published book, which he wrote when he was still in his twenties, *Dubliners* is far removed from the bold experimentalism of his later work, but is essential for understanding the author's development as a writer, and endures as a masterly example of the short-story form. Although ranging considerably in tone, mood and milieu, the fifteen short stories included in this collection all centre around the city of Dublin and its inhabitants at the beginning of the twentieth-century. From the unsettling adventure of two truant schoolboys to the crafty schemes of two con-men, from a young woman's refusal to abandon Ireland and elope with a sailor to a man's moment of clarity during an annual dance party, these stories offer a moving portrait of an entire world and era which has all but disappeared.

"His writing is not about something; it is that something itself." - Samuel Beckett

"Its deep power abides in the inextricability of Joyce's masterly control of language and the breadth of his vision." - Eimear McBride

## Author Bio

Born in Dublin, James Joyce (1882-1941) spent most of his life abroad, living in Trieste, Paris and Zurich. His writings, however, mainly centre on Dublin - most famously *Ulysses*, *Dubliners* and *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*. He pioneered and perfected avant-garde prose techniques that saw him rise to the rank of one of Europe's foremost Modernists.

## Pollyanna

by Eleanor H. Porter, illustrated by Kate Hindley

The orphan girl Pollyanna moves in with her miserable aunt in New England. Despite being unwanted, Pollyanna's exuberance and positivity affect everyone who meets her, and she spreads joy and love wherever she goes. But when tragedy strikes, Pollyanna finds her optimistic attitude tested and she must learn to find happiness again.

A heartwarming tale that has become one of the most loved children's stories of all time, Eleanor H. Porter's 1913 bestseller - the first in a long series of Pollyanna novels by the author and other writers - is a beautiful story with a powerful moral message.

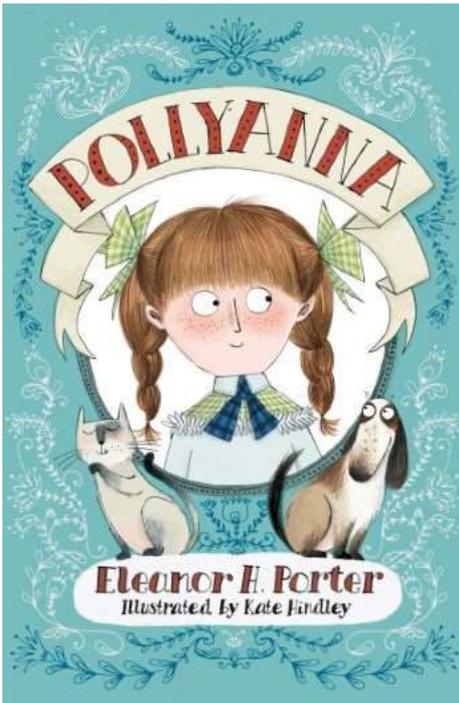
The classic tale of a glad-hearted little orphan girl whose positive take on the most adverse circumstance is a lesson for us all." -*Sunday Times*"

### Author Bio

American novelist Eleanor H. Porter (1868-1920) is best known for her hugely popular novel

Pollyanna, which was a bestseller during her lifetime and has now become a children's classic.

Kate Hindley is a children's book illustrator, currently living and working in Worcestershire, UK. Her first picture book illustrations appeared in *The Great Snortle Hunt*. She likes doodling, and pea and ham soup.



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