**FICTION / CLASSICS**

Alma Classics | 8/28/2018
 9781847496683 | \$8.00 / \$11.00 Can.
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The Plays

The Cherry Orchard, The Three Sisters, The Seagull and Uncle Vanya

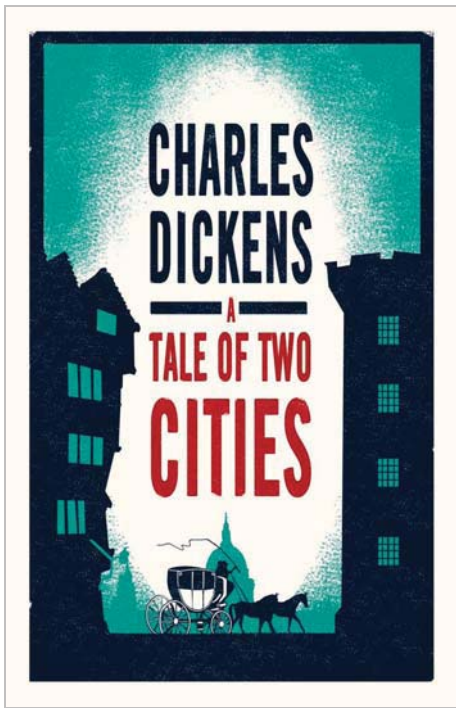
Anton Chekhov

This new translation of Chekhov's best-loved plays is fully annotated and includes pictures and an extensive section on Chekhov's life and works.

The most widely staged dramatist after Shakespeare, Chekhov left a deep mark both on the development of Russian literature and world theatre, with plays that were remarkable not just for their dialogue but their atmosphere and the tensions expressed between the lines.

Collected in this volume are Chekhov's four most celebrated plays – *The Seagull*, *Uncle Vanya*, *Three Sisters* and *The Cherry Orchard* – in a brand-new translation by Hugh Aplin. In these personal stories of unfulfilled love, failed ambition and existential ennui, set against a background of unsettling social and economical change, the reader can appreciate the groundbreaking qualities of Chekhov's theatrical genius.

Anton Chekhov is one of the giants of modern literature, exerting a strong influence on many novelists and dramatists. As a playwright, he is second only to Shakespeare in the English-speaking world. As a prose writer, he was one of the first to use the stream-of-consciousness technique, and his anti-heroic realism, full of ambiguity and allusion, provides no easy moral conclusions and results in a new kind of narrative approaching real life in a way no writer had achieved before him.

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A Tale of Two Cities

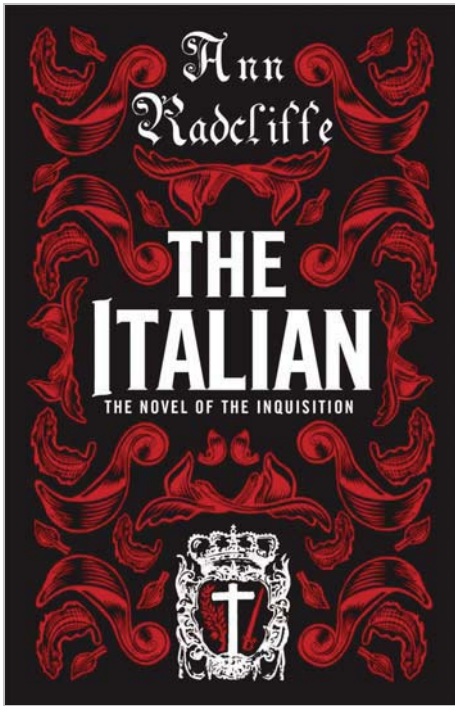
Charles Dickens

A new edition of one of Dickens's best-loved works with pictures and an extensive section on Dickens's life and works.

As the Revolution is still raging in France, in London the barrister Sydney Carton and the exiled French nobleman Charles Darnay find themselves rivals for the affections of Lucie Manette, the daughter of a political prisoner who was released from the Bastille and moved to the English capital. Through a chain of events, they both end up in Paris, where they are caught up in the anarchic forces of the Terror and find themselves facing the looming threat of the guillotine.

Representing a departure from the social satire of most of his other novels and deemed by Dickens himself to be “the best story I have written,” *A Tale of Two Cities* is a powerful historical novel about the repercussions of major world events on the personal lives of people on both sides of the Channel.

A literary phenomenon in his lifetime and renowned as much for his journalism and public speaking as for his novels, **Charles Dickens** (1812–70) now ranks as the most important Victorian writer and one of the most influential and popular authors in the English language. His memorable and vividly rendered characters and his combination of humour, trenchant satire and compassion have left an indelible mark.

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The Italian

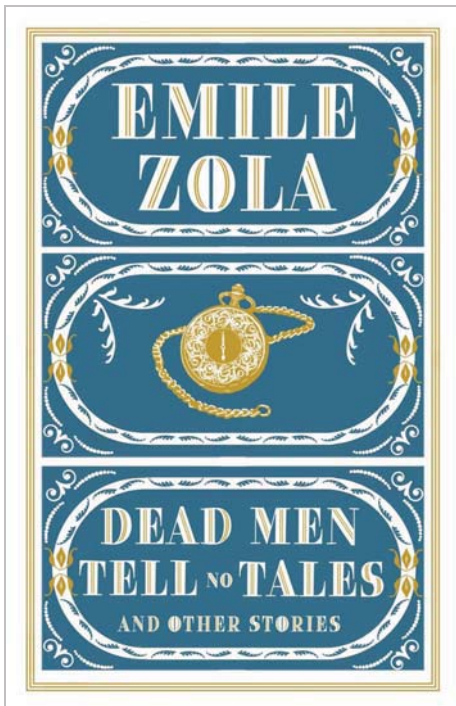
Ann Radcliffe

A beloved classic presented with extra material about the author and her books including notes.

First published in 1797, *The Italian*, with its archetypal villain Schedoni, its intense romance and its sublime depiction of landscape, is the masterpiece of Gothic fiction.

Enlisted by the Marchesa di Vivaldi, the perfidious monk Schedoni casts a malevolent presence throughout the book as he tries to thwart the passion of the two young lovers Vincenzo di Vivaldi and Elena di Rosalba. Against the backdrop of the Catholic Inquisition and the unforgettable scenery of the Bay of Naples and the Apennines, *The Italian* celebrates the heroic struggle of love in the face of malice and deceit.

Ann Radcliffe (1764–1823) is the pioneering author of classic Gothic novels such as *The Mysteries of Udolpho* and *The Italian*, which spawned countless imitators.



Dead Men Tell No Tales and Other Stories

Émile Zola

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In contrast with the epic scope of the Rougon-Macquart novels, Zola's short stories are concerned with the everyday aspects of human existence and the interests of ordinary people.

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Émile Zola (1840–1902) is the foremost representative of the Naturalist school, and is best remembered for *Thérèse Raquin* and his twenty-novel cycle, *The Rougon-Macquarts*.

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