

Plains The Text Classics

In *Five Classics of Fengshui* Michael Paton traces the theoretical development of this form of spiritual geography through full translations of major texts: the *Burial Classic* of Qing Wu, *Book of Burial*, *Yellow Emperor's Classic of House Siting*, *Twenty Four Difficult Problems*, and *Water Dragon Classic*.

With Giramondo's publication of *Barley Patch* and *A History of Books*, Gerald Murnane has attracted renewed interest as a brilliant writer and Nobel Prize contender. First published 25 years ago, *Inland* is one of Murnane's most complex and rewarding works, a study of guilt, longing and regret rich in metaphysical insights. From his native district in the Melbourne suburb of Pascoe Vale, Murnane's narrator imagines another world, in Szolnok county Hungary, and within that world another, in *Ideal South Dakota*, each haunted by the betrayal of a young girl, each driven by the possibility of restitution. Murnane's mastery over language and his pressing towards the edges of what fiction can accomplish make this book a landmark in Australian literature.

O Pioneers! is the first novel of Willa Cather's Great Plains trilogy, followed by *The Song of the Lark* and *My Ántonia*. *O Pioneers!* tells the story of the Bergsons, a family of Swedish-American immigrants in the farm country near the fictional town of Hanover, Nebraska, at the turn of the 20th century. The main character, Alexandra Bergson, inherits the family farmland when her father dies, and she devotes her life to making the farm a viable enterprise at a time when many other immigrant families are giving up and leaving the prairie.

Many of the earliest books, particularly those dating back to the 1900s and before, are now extremely scarce and increasingly expensive. We are republishing these classic works in affordable, high quality, modern editions, using the original text and artwork.

The traditional cultures of the Indians of the Great Plains—Lakotas, Cheyennes, Wichitas, Arikaras, Crows, Osages, Assiniboins, Comanches, Crees, and Mandans, among others—are recalled in stunning detail in this collection of photographs by Edward S. Curtis (1868–1952). Curtis is the best-known photographer of Native Americans because of his monumental work, *The North American Indian* (1907–1930), which consists of twenty portfolios of large photogravures and twenty volumes of text on more than eighty Indian groups in the West. He took pictures of Plains Indians for over twenty years, and his photographs reflect both prevailing attitudes about Indians and Curtis's own vision of differences among the Native peoples whom he photographed. Curtis's photographs have exerted an enduring influence—both positive and negative—on mainstream American culture. They have inspired countless books, articles, and photographic exhibitions, and they continue to appear on posters, postcards, and other souvenirs. Accompanying the remarkable array of images in this book are essays by leading scholars that place the photographs within their proper critical, cultural, and historical contexts. The scholars contributing to this work are Martha H. Kennedy, Martha A. Sandweiss, Mick Gidley, and Duane Niatum.

Willa Cather was the 1922 winner of the Pulitzer Prize. Her breakthrough in literature were the three novels featured here in this edition, the so-called "Great Plains Trilogy". All three novels stage in Nebraska and the surrounding Great Plains territory and deal with the life there, family challenges and romance. Included are: *O Pioneers!* *The Song of the Lark* *My Antonia*

Discover the Australian novelist ranked by *Ladbroke's* as a top-five contender for the 2010 Nobel Prize. *Barley Patch* takes as its subject the reasons an author might abandon fiction—or so he thinks—forever. Using the form of an oblique self-interrogation, it begins with the Beckettian question "Must I write?" and proceeds to expand from this small, personal query to fill in the details of a landscape entirely unique in world letters, a chronicle of the images from life and fiction that have endured and mingled in the author's mind, as well as the details (and details within details) that they contain. As interested, if not more so, in the characters from his

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books—finished or unfinished—as with the members of his family or his daily life, the narrator lays bare the act of writing and imagining, finally giving us a glimpse of the mythical place where the characters of fiction dwell before they come into existence in books. In the spirit of Italo Calvino and Georges Perec, Barley Patch is like no other fiction being written today. Pulitzer Prize-winning author John McPhee continues his Annals of the Former World series about the geology of North America along the fortieth parallel with *Rising from the Plains*. This third volume presents another exciting geological excursion with an engaging account of life—past and present—in the high plains of Wyoming. Sometimes it is said of geologists that they reflect in their professional styles the sort of country in which they grew up. Nowhere could that be more true than in the life of a geologist born in the center of Wyoming and raised on an isolated ranch. This is the story of that ranch, soon after the turn of the twentieth century, and of David Love, the geologist who grew up there, at home with the composition of the high country in the way that someone growing up in a coastal harbor would be at home with the vagaries of the sea. The Virginian is the quiet, noble foreman of a Wyoming cattle ranch in the 1870s. More comfortable keeping company with his trusted horse than with other people, he nevertheless falls for pretty schoolteacher Molly Wood, who helps him develop an appreciation for Shakespeare, Keats, and the finer things. But when a rival suitor challenges his honor, the Virginian struggles to make his beloved Molly understand the harsh justice of the West.

Twenty years ago, when I first arrived on the plains, I kept my eyes open. I looked for anything in the landscape that seemed to hint at some elaborate meaning behind appearances. There is no book in Australian literature like *The Plains*. In the two decades since its first publication, this haunting novel has earned its status as a classic. A nameless young man arrives on the plains and begins to document the strange and rich culture of the plains families. As his story unfolds, the novel becomes, in the words of Murray Bail, 'a mirage of landscape, memory, love and literature itself'.

This will be a book for the world's last reader, she decided, chewing pen-end over an open exercise book. In the dying town of Drylands, Janet Deakin sells papers to lonely locals. At night, in her flat above the newsagency, she attempts to write a novel for a world in which no one reads—'full of people, she envisaged, glaring at a screen that glared glassily back.' *Drylands* is the story of the townsfolk's harsh, violent lives.

Trenchant and brilliant, Thea Astley's final novel is a dark portrait of outback Australia in decline. Thea Astley was born in Brisbane in 1925. Her first novel, *Girl with a Monkey*, was published in 1958 and her third, *The Well Dressed Explorer* (1962), won the Miles Franklin Literary Award. Many notable books followed, among them the groundbreaking *A Kindness Cup* (1974), which addressed frontier massacres of Indigenous Australians, and *It's Raining in Mango* (1987). Her last novel was *Drylands* (1999), her fourth Miles Franklin winner. Her fiction is distinguished by vivid imagery and metaphor; a complex, ironic style; and a desire to highlight oppression and social injustice. One of the most distinctive and influential Australian novelists of the twentieth century, Astley died in 2004. 'It is impossible to put this book down. It seethes with energy and passion.' *Herald Sun* 'Wonderful.' Australian

Brilliant, witty, scathing, *The Australian Ugliness* is the classic postwar account of Australian society, how we live in the environments we create, and the consequences of our failure to think about how we live.

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A classic of the Australian outback, *Such Is Life* is the farcical, tragic reminiscences of Tom Collins, philosopher and rogue. As Tom drives his team across the plains of the Riverina and northern Victoria, he gets entangled in the fate of others like Rory O'Halloran, the two Alfs (Nosey and Warrigal) and Hungry Buckley of Baroona recreating the humour, the pathos, the irony of life in the bush. His is the tough-talking, law-dodging world of the 1880s, where swagmen and bullockies slept under the stars with 'grandeur, peace and purity above; squalor, worry and profanity below'. These inspired yarns, 'fatally governed by an inveterate truthfulness', are woven into one of the greatest books of Australian literature, combining a genius for story-telling with a wry wit and a deep feeling for the harsh sun-baked land and the people who worked it. Joseph Furphy was born at Port Phillip, Victoria, in 1843. 'Half bushman and half bookworm', Furphy worked as a goldminer, labourer and farmer before coming to the profession that would inspire *Such Is Life*, bullock driving. In 1904 he settled in Fremantle, Western Australia, to join his children. *Such Is Life* was originally published in 1903 and was soon regarded as one of Australia's great novels. Furphy's three other books - *Poems*, *Rigby's Romance* and *The Buln Buln and the Brolga* - were all published after his death in 1912.

First published in 1822, this is the extraordinary story of John Nicol, a sailor who circled the globe twice, fought Napoleon's navy, was in Hawaii just after Cook's death, and went to Port Jackson on a Second Fleet vessel with its cargo of female convicts. Sharply observed, bitter and humorous, *The Long Prospect* is a story of life in an Australian industrial town. Growing up neglected in a seedy boarding house, Emily Lawrence befriends Max, a middle-aged scientist who encourages her to pursue her intellectual interests. Innocent Emily will face scandal, suburban snobbery and psychological torment.

Used by Kevin Costner as a resource while making the film *Dances with Wolves*, this classic text is avidly sought after by anyone with an interest in Native American history and the West. A highly readable text combines with more than 1,000 illustrations to create a fascinating evocation of the life and times of an industrious, sensitive, and contented people. 32 color plates. 80 photos. 15 maps. 15 charts.

In *Border Districts*, a man moves from a capital city to a remote town in the border country, where he intends to spend the last years of his life. It is time, he thinks, to review the spoils of a lifetime of seeing, a lifetime of reading. Which sights, which people, which books, fictional characters, turns of phrase, and lines of verse will survive into the twilight? A dark-haired woman with a wistful expression? An ancestral house in the grasslands? The colors in translucent panes of glass, in marbles and goldfish and racing silks? Feeling an increasing urgency to put his mental landscape in order, the man sets to work cataloging this treasure, little knowing where his "report" will lead and what secrets will be brought to light.

In 1788 Watkin Tench stepped ashore at Botany Bay with the First Fleet. This curious young captain of the marines was an effortless storyteller. His account of the infant colony is the first classic of Australian literature.

With more than 7 million books in print, RT Book Reviews Career Achievement Award winning and USA Today Bestselling author Rosanne Bittner pens a historical Western romance filled with dangerous cowboys, capable heroines, and an epic love story that sweeps across the Old West. IN A LAND OF OPPORTUNITY Sunny Landers wants a big life-as big and free as the untamed land that stretches before her. Land she will help her father conquer to achieve his dream of a transcontinental railroad. She won't let a cold, creaky wagon, murderous bandits or stampeding buffalo stand in her way. She wants it all-including Colt Travis. ALL THE ODDS WERE AGAINST THEM Like the land of his birth, half Cherokee Colt Travis is wild, hard, and dangerous. He is a drifter, a wilderness scout with no land and no prospects hired by the Landers family to guide their wagon train. He knows Sunny is out of his league and her father would never approve, but beneath the endless starlit sky, anything seems possible... Praise for Bestselling Historical Western Romances by Rosanne Bittner: "A hero to set feminine hearts aflutter...western romance readers will thoroughly enjoy this." -Library Journal "Fans of such authors as Jodi Thomas and Georgina Gentry will enjoy Bittner's thrilling tale of crime and love in the Old West."-Booklist Online "One of the most powerful voices in western romance."-RT Book Reviews

Set in Australia and England in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century, The Cardboard Crown presents an unforgettable portrait of an upper middle-class family who love both countries but are not quite at home in either. Martin Boyd is a deeply humane novelist, a writer of family sagas without peer. Since the controversy and acclaim that surrounded the publication of Disgrace (1999), the awarding of the Nobel Prize for literature and the publication of Elizabeth Costello: Eight Lessons (both in 2003), J. M. Coetzee's status has begun to steadily rise to the point where he has now outgrown the specialized domain of South African literature. Today he is recognized more simply as one of the most important writers in the English language from the late 20th and early 21st century. Coetzee's productivity and invention has not slowed with old age. The Childhood of Jesus, published in 2013, like Elizabeth Costello, was met with a puzzled reception, as critics struggled to come to terms with its odd setting and structure, its seemingly flat tone, and the strange affectless interactions of its characters. Most puzzling was the central character, David, linked by the title to an idea of Jesus. J.M. Coetzee's The Childhood of Jesus: The Ethics of Ideas and Things is at the forefront of an exciting process of critical engagement with this novel, which has begun to uncover its rich dialogue with philosophy, theology, mathematics, politics, and questions of meaning.

The interest which boys are taking in all that relates to our Indian tribes, and the greediness they manifest in devouring the sensational stories published so cheaply, filling their imaginations with stories of wild Indian life on the plains and borders, without regard to their truthfulness, cannot but be harmful; and therefore the writer, after three years' experience on the plains, feels desirous of giving youthful minds a right direction,

in a true history of the red men of our forests.

The author profiles the storied Great Plains of the American Midwest, relating the history, the lore, and the stories of the current inhabitants of the area

Adrian Sherd is a teenage boy in Melbourne of the 1950s, the last years before television and the family car changed suburbia forever. Earnest and isolated, tormented by his hormones and his religious devotion, Adrian dreams of elaborate orgies with American film stars, and of marrying his sweetheart and fathering eleven children by her. He even dreams a history of the world as a chronicle of sexual frustration. A Lifetime on Clouds is funny, honest and sweetly told: a less ribald, Catholic Australian Portnoy's Complaint. Gerald Murnane was born in Melbourne in 1939. His first novel, Tamarisk Row, was published in 1974. It was followed by A Lifetime on Clouds, The Plains and five other works of fiction, the most recent of which is A History of Books. In 1999 he won the Patrick White Award. Ten years later he won the Melbourne Prize for Literature. 'Unquestionably one of the most original writers working in Australia today.' Australian 'A Lifetime on Clouds delighted me: I was particularly admiring of the author's unflinching ability to say just enough and no more.' Les Murray, Sydney Morning Herald 'Murnane draws out a great deal of comedy from the distance between what his hero does and what he dreams.' Guardian 'If you only ever read one Gerald Murnane novel in your life, I urge you to make it this one.' Andy Griffiths, in his introduction Set in Wyoming in pioneer days. The hero, never named, provokes the enmity of a local bad man named Trampas. In a poker game, Trampas accuses the Virginian of cheating and impugns his ancestry. Instantly the Virginian's pistol is drawn and put on the table before him, and he utters the catch phrase "When you call me that, smile." Trampas backs down. Later the Virginian rescues a New England schoolmistress from a stage coach that has been marooned in high water by a drunken driver. Eventually they get married. The novel's climax is a pistol duel between Trampas and the Virginian in which Trampas is vanquished, the scene constituting the first known walkdown in American literature. The author had first gone to Wyoming for health reasons on the advice of Theodore Roosevelt. Wister dedicated the novel to Roosevelt and many of the Virginian's traits and ideals resemble Roosevelt's. According to Wister, writing in the 16th edition of the book, the hero is a combination of several men he had known in Wyoming. It became the prototype for all cowboy heroes.

In this edited selection of his journals, Matthew Flinders, Australia's greatest navigator and the man who named our island continent, describes in captivating detail his epic mission to map our shores between 1796 and 1803.

First published in 1974, and out of print for almost twenty years, Tamarisk Row is Gerald Murnane's first novel, and in many respects his masterpiece, an unsparing evocation of a Catholic childhood in a Victorian country town in the late 1940s.

A study of the changes initiated into the systems and culture of the plain dwellers Winner of the Patrick White Literary Award, 1999. Introduction by Wayne Macauley. There is no book in Australian literature like The Plains. In the two decades since its first publication, this haunting novel has earned its status as a classic. A nameless young man arrives on the plains and begins to document the strange and rich culture of the plains families. As his story unfolds, the novel becomes, in the words of Murray Bail, 'a mirage of landscape, memory, love and literature itself'. Gerald Murnane was born in Melbourne in 1939. He has been a

primary teacher, an editor and a university lecturer. His debut novel, *Tamarisk Row* (1974), was followed by ten other works of fiction, including *The Plains* and most recently *Border Districts*. In 1999 Murnane won the Patrick White Award and in 2009 he won the Melbourne Prize for Literature. He lives in western Victoria. Wayne Macauley is the author of three novels, *Blueprints for a Barbed-Wire Canoe* (2004), *Caravan Story* (2007) and *The Cook* (2011), and the short fiction collection *Other Stories* (2010). He lives in Melbourne. 'Murnane is quite simply one of the finest writers we have produced.' Peter Craven 'A distinguished, distinctive, unforgettable novel.' Shirley Hazzard 'Gerald Murnane is unquestionably one of the most original writers working in Australia today and *The Plains* is a fascinating and rewarding book...The writing is extraordinarily good, spare, austere, strong, often oddly moving.' Australian 'A piece of imaginative writing so remarkably sustained that it is a subject for meditation rather than a mere reading...In the depths and surfaces of this extraordinary fable you will see your inner self eerily reflected again and again.' Sydney Morning Herald 'The Plains has that peculiar singularity that can make literature great.' Ed Wright, Australian, Best Books of 2015 'Murnane touches on foibles and philosophy, plays with the makings of a fable or allegory, and all the while toys with tone, moving easily from earnest to deadpan to lightly ironic, a meld of Buster Keaton, the Kafka of the short stories, and Swift in *A Modest Proposal*...A provocative, delightful, diverting must-reread.' STARRED Review, Kirkus Reviews 'Known for its sharp yet defamiliarizing take on the landscape and an aesthetic of purity historically associated with it, *The Plains* is uniformly described as a masterpiece of Australian literature. Look closer, though, and it's a haunting nineteenth-century novel of colonial violence captured inside the machine's test-pattern image—a distant, unassuming house on the plains.'

BOMB This haunting novel is a classic of Australian literature. A nameless young man arrives on the plains and begins to document the strange and rich culture of the plains families. As his story unfolds, the novel becomes, in the words of Murray Bail: a mirage of landscape, memory, love and literature itself.

Ruth Park's Miles Franklin-winning novel brilliantly evokes Australia in the midst of the Great Depression. Written with warmth and affection, *Swords and Crowns and Rings* is a powerful story about human nature and the strength of an unlikely love.

Such is Life (1903) is a novel by Joseph Furphy. Written under his pseudonym "Tom Collins," *Such is Life* is a unique and challenging story that took decades to achieve a proper audience. Earning comparisons to the works of Melville and Twain, Furphy's novel is considered a landmark of Australian literature. "The fore part of the day was altogether devoid of interest or event. Overhead, the sun blazing wastefully and thanklessly through a rarefied atmosphere; underfoot the hot, black clay, thirsting for spring rain, and bare except for inedible roley-poleys, coarse tussocks, and the woody stubble of close-eaten salt-bush; between sky and earth, a solitary wayfarer, wisely lapt in philosophic torpor." Setting out on a

trek through the outback, Tom Collins begins his seemingly endless torrent of words, a journey through language to match his journey over land. Accompanied by a dog and two horses, he meets a vibrant array of characters from all nations and walks of life; from drovers to criminals, Collins can talk with them all.

Described by Furphy himself as “offensively Australian,” *Such is Life* is part travelogue, part philosophy, a novel ahead of its time that remains informative for our own. With a beautifully designed cover and professionally typeset manuscript, this edition of Joseph Furphy’s *Such is Life* is a classic work of Australian literature reimagined for modern readers.

This eBook version of *The Virginian : A Horseman of the Plains* presents the full text of this literary classic.

Tin River is a townlet of terminal attractiveness. *Tin River* is a state of mind. Researching in the archives Belle discovers the long-dead Gaden Lockyer, a colonial pioneer in Jericho Flats, and soon becomes obsessed. Belle’s quest for Lockyer is her way of coming to terms with the past—her mother, ‘a drummer in her own all-women’s group’; her absent American father; and her ineffectual husband, Seb. In *Reaching Tin River*, Thea Astley’s satire is at its sharpest and most entertaining. Thea Astley was born in Brisbane in 1925. Her first novel, *Girl with a Monkey*, was published in 1958 and her third, *The Well Dressed Explorer* (1962), won the Miles Franklin Literary Award. Many notable books followed, among them the groundbreaking *A Kindness Cup* (1974), which addressed frontier massacres of Indigenous Australians, and *It’s Raining in Mango* (1987). Her last novel was *Drylands* (1999), her fourth Miles Franklin winner. Her fiction is distinguished by vivid imagery and metaphor; a complex, ironic style; and a desire to highlight oppression and social injustice. One of the most distinctive and influential Australian novelists of the twentieth century, Astley died in 2004. ‘How lucidly Ms. Astley evokes for us Australia’s rough pioneer history and Belle’s love for it...You will like this journey, I promise, and when it is over you will wish it weren’t, and you will feel cross and want from Ms. Astley much, much more.’

New York Times ‘Dazzling imagery on every page...Beautifully written.’

Publishers Weekly ‘Intelligent, fresh, and new.’ Kirkus Reviews

Gerald Murnane: *Another World in This One* coincides with a renewed interest in his work. It includes an important new essay by Murnane himself, alongside chapters by established and emerging literary critics from Australia and internationally. Together they provide a stimulating reassessment of Murnane’s diverse body of work.

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