

The Human Comedy: Selected Stories (New York Review Books Classics)

By Honore de Balzac

Download now

Read Online ➔


The Human Comedy: Selected Stories (New York Review Books Classics)

By Honore de Balzac

An NYRB Classics Original

Characters from every corner of society and all walks of life—lords and ladies, businessmen and military men, poor clerks, unforgiving moneylenders, aspiring politicians, artists, actresses, swindlers, misers, parasites, sexual adventurers, crackpots, and more—move through the pages of *The Human Comedy*, Balzac’s multivolume magnum opus, an interlinked chronicle of modernity in all its splendor and squalor. *The Human Comedy* includes the great roomy novels that have exercised such a sway over Balzac’s many literary inheritors, from Dostoyevsky and Henry James to Marcel Proust; it also contains an array of short fictions in which Balzac is at his most concentrated and forceful. Nine of these, all newly translated, appear in this volume, and together they provide an unequaled overview of a great writer’s obsessions and art. Here are “The Duchesse de Langeais,” “A Passion in the Desert,” and “Sarrasine”; tales of madness, illicit passion, ill-gotten gains, and crime. What unifies them, Peter Brooks points out in his introduction, is an incomparable storyteller’s fascination with the power of storytelling, while throughout we also detect what Proust so admired: the “mysterious circulation of blood and desire.”

 [Download The Human Comedy: Selected Stories \(New York Review Books Classics\) ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The Human Comedy: Selected Stories \(New York Review Books Classics\) ...pdf](#)

The Human Comedy: Selected Stories (New York Review Books Classics)

By Honore de Balzac

The Human Comedy: Selected Stories (New York Review Books Classics) By Honore de Balzac

An NYRB Classics Original

Characters from every corner of society and all walks of life—lords and ladies, businessmen and military men, poor clerks, unforgiving moneylenders, aspiring politicians, artists, actresses, swindlers, misers, parasites, sexual adventurers, crackpots, and more—move through the pages of *The Human Comedy*, Balzac's multivolume magnum opus, an interlinked chronicle of modernity in all its splendor and squalor. *The Human Comedy* includes the great roomy novels that have exercised such a sway over Balzac's many literary inheritors, from Dostoyevsky and Henry James to Marcel Proust; it also contains an array of short fictions in which Balzac is at his most concentrated and forceful. Nine of these, all newly translated, appear in this volume, and together they provide an unequalled overview of a great writer's obsessions and art. Here are "The Duchesse de Langeais," "A Passion in the Desert," and "Sarrasine"; tales of madness, illicit passion, ill-gotten gains, and crime. What unifies them, Peter Brooks points out in his introduction, is an incomparable storyteller's fascination with the power of storytelling, while throughout we also detect what Proust so admired: the "mysterious circulation of blood and desire."

The Human Comedy: Selected Stories (New York Review Books Classics) By Honore de Balzac **Bibliography**

- Sales Rank: #248193 in Books
- Published on: 2014-01-21
- Released on: 2014-01-21
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 7.96" h x .94" w x 5.02" l, .99 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 464 pages

 [Download The Human Comedy: Selected Stories \(New York Review Books Classics\) By Honore de Balzac.pdf](#)

 [Read Online The Human Comedy: Selected Stories \(New York Review Books Classics\) By Honore de Balzac.pdf](#)

Editorial Review

Review

"The great thing about work this entertaining is that it's still exciting nearly 200 years on." —Nicholas Lezard, *The Guardian*

"These tales provide the reader a healthy introduction to Balzac's famous hyperbole, his melodrama, and his extended descriptions and explanations where nothing goes unsaid. We don't read Balzac for his refined style; rather, his genius lies in the sheer ambition of his reach, the vastness of his grasp." —*Publishers Weekly*

"The characters and sentences still leap from the page as if they were trapped there just seconds ago. It's just choosing where to begin.... Happily, in *The Human Comedy: Selected Stories*, Peter Brooks has managed to capture this enormous range and more by plucking a mere nine of the Frenchmen's best tales. There is a good range on display here, as broad as the Napoleonic Empire. Dandies and duchesses discuss the decline of aristocratic mores at a dinner party in "Another Study of Womankind." In "A Passion in the Desert," a soldier lost in the Sahara stumbles upon an oasis, which he discovers is inhabited by a panther. Out of such tales one can see how Balzac was the great-grandfather to writers as diverse as Colette and Antoine de Saint-Exupéry." —*The Boston Globe*

"I have learned more [from Balzac] than from all the professional historians, economists, and statisticians put together." —Friedrich Engels

"In Balzac, every living soul is a weapon loaded to the very muzzle with will." —Charles Baudelaire

"Large as Balzac is, he is all of one piece and he hangs together perfectly." —Henry James

"Balzac was both a greedy child and an indefatigable observer of a greedy age, at once a fantastic and a genius, yet possessing a simple core of common sense." —V. S. Pritchett

"Balzac was by turns a saint, a criminal, an honest judge, a corrupt judge, a minister, a fob, a harlot, a duchess, and always a genius." —André Maurois

About the Author

Honoré de Balzac (1799–1850), one of the greatest and most influential of novelists, was born in Tours and educated at the Collège de Vendôme and the Sorbonne. He began his career as a pseudonymous writer of sensational potboilers before achieving success with a historical novel, *The Chouans*. Balzac then conceived his great work, *La Comédie humaine*, an ongoing series of novels in which he set out to offer a complete picture of contemporary society and manners. Always working under an extraordinary burden of debt, Balzac wrote some eighty-five novels in the course of his last twenty years, including such masterpieces as *Père Goriot*, *Eugénie Grandet*, *Lost Illusions*, and *Cousin Bette*. In 1850, he married Eveline Hanska, a rich Polish woman with whom he had long conducted an intimate correspondence. Three months later he died. In addition to the present collection, NYRB Classics publishes a translation of Balzac's *The Unknown Masterpiece* and *Gambara*.

Peter Brooks taught for many years at Yale, where he was Sterling Professor of Comparative Literature. He

has written about Balzac in a number of books, including *The Melodramatic Imagination, Reading for the Plot, Henry James Goes to Paris*, and *Enigmas of Identity*. He is currently Andrew W. Mellon Scholar at Princeton and is at work on *Flaubert in the Ruins of Paris*.

Linda Asher has translated works by Milan Kundera, Georges Simenon, Victor Hugo, Jean-Pierre Vernant, Restif de la Bretonne, and many others. A former fiction editor at *The New Yorker*, she has and ASCAP Deems Taylor translation prizes and is a Chevalier of the Order of Arts and Letters of the French Republic.

Carol Cosman is a translator of French literature and letters. Her work includes *Exile and the Kingdom* by Albert Camus, *Colonel Chabert* by Honoré de Balzac, *America Day by Day* by Simone de Beauvoir, *The Elementary Forms of Religious Life* by Emile Durkheim, and *The Family Idiot* (a study of Flaubert) by Jean-Paul Sartre.

Jordan Stump is a professor of French at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln; the author, most recently, of *The Other Book: Bewilderments of Fiction*; and the translator of some twenty works of (mostly) contemporary French prose by authors such as Marie NDiaye, Eric Chevillard, Antoine Volodine, and Jean-Philippe Toussaint. His translation of Claude Simon's *The Jardin des Plantes* won the French-American Foundation's annual translation prize in 2001.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Paul McKinney:

The book *The Human Comedy: Selected Stories* (New York Review Books Classics) gives you the sense of being enjoy for your spare time. You can use to make your capable far more increase. Book can being your best friend when you getting anxiety or having big problem with the subject. If you can make reading through a book *The Human Comedy: Selected Stories* (New York Review Books Classics) to be your habit, you can get a lot more advantages, like add your capable, increase your knowledge about a few or all subjects. You can know everything if you like open and read a book *The Human Comedy: Selected Stories* (New York Review Books Classics). Kinds of book are several. It means that, science reserve or encyclopedia or other people. So , how do you think about this publication?

Angela Yoder:

People live in this new day of lifestyle always make an effort to and must have the time or they will get great deal of stress from both day to day life and work. So , when we ask do people have time, we will say absolutely of course. People is human not a robot. Then we consult again, what kind of activity are there when the spare time coming to a person of course your answer will unlimited right. Then do you try this one, reading guides. It can be your alternative within spending your spare time, often the book you have read is actually *The Human Comedy: Selected Stories* (New York Review Books Classics).

Robert Victor:

Playing with family in a very park, coming to see the water world or hanging out with pals is thing that usually you will have done when you have spare time, in that case why you don't try thing that really

opposite from that. 1 activity that make you not experience tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you are ride on and with addition of knowledge. Even you love The Human Comedy: Selected Stories (New York Review Books Classics), it is possible to enjoy both. It is fine combination right, you still want to miss it? What kind of hangout type is it? Oh can happen its mind hangout men. What? Still don't have it, oh come on its named reading friends.

Joshua White:

In this era globalization it is important to someone to get information. The information will make professionals understand the condition of the world. The condition of the world makes the information better to share. You can find a lot of sources to get information example: internet, classifieds, book, and soon. You will observe that now, a lot of publisher that will print many kinds of book. The book that recommended to you personally is The Human Comedy: Selected Stories (New York Review Books Classics) this guide consist a lot of the information in the condition of this world now. This kind of book was represented just how can the world has grown up. The words styles that writer use to explain it is easy to understand. The actual writer made some study when he makes this book. That is why this book ideal all of you.

**Download and Read Online The Human Comedy: Selected Stories
(New York Review Books Classics) By Honore de Balzac
#SPULHFYE7IG**

Read The Human Comedy: Selected Stories (New York Review Books Classics) By Honore de Balzac for online ebook

The Human Comedy: Selected Stories (New York Review Books Classics) By Honore de Balzac Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read The Human Comedy: Selected Stories (New York Review Books Classics) By Honore de Balzac books to read online.

Online The Human Comedy: Selected Stories (New York Review Books Classics) By Honore de Balzac ebook PDF download

The Human Comedy: Selected Stories (New York Review Books Classics) By Honore de Balzac Doc

The Human Comedy: Selected Stories (New York Review Books Classics) By Honore de Balzac Mobipocket

The Human Comedy: Selected Stories (New York Review Books Classics) By Honore de Balzac EPub

SPULHFYE7IG: The Human Comedy: Selected Stories (New York Review Books Classics) By Honore de Balzac