



PRESS RELEASE
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Sort out your summer reading and complete your classics education...

Overwhelmed by all the great books out there, befuddled by bestsellers and booksellers' choice, the 'must reads' and prizewinners? If you need help separating the literary gems from all the rest then let the new ***Rough Guide to Classic Novels*** point you to your next read and spend this summer acquainting yourself with some of the world's best loved heroes and heroines, rogues and villains, tragedies, mysteries and love stories.

Forget dusty tomes and dry prose, in the new *Rough Guide to Classic Novels*, Jane Austen rubs shoulders with Ernest Hemingway, Oscar Wilde with Raymond Chandler. Classic heavyweights from Tsarist Russia sit alongside Modernist masterpieces from the deep American South, and serial blockbusters from Victorian London mix with mind-bending fables from Brazil and Turkey.

With an eye-catching front cover, featuring the delectable **Marilyn Monroe absorbed in James Joyce's *Ulysses***, and a clear and chatty style, this is sure to make you look at classic fiction in a whole new light.

Whether you're a Reading Group rookie or a literary maestro, the *Rough Guide to Classic Novels* will give you the lowdown on the best fiction ever written, covering 200 of the world's greatest novels. With fascinating information about their plots and authors, the new guide also features suggestions on what to read next, plus outstanding translations and film and TV adaptations.

Divided into 12 thematic chapters including...

Love, Sex and Romance – all the tears, flirtations and obsessions, from *Jane Eyre* and *Pride and Prejudice* to *Madame Bovary* and *Lolita*.

Crime and Punishment – from the ribaldry of Defoe's *Moll Flanders* to the tough-guy *noir* of Raymond Chandler's *The Big Sleep*.

Heroes and anti-heroes – the dashing and the daring, and a rogue's gallery of villains and cads from *Tess of the D'Urbervilles* to Camus' *The Outsider*.

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Notes for Editors:

The Rough Guide to Classic Novels by Simon Mason • ISBN: 9781843535164 • RRP: £7.99 • Published: May 2008

For review copies, giveaways, or extract requests:
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Top 10 Classic Novel Male Heartbreakers

- 1) Vicomte de Valmont (*Dangerous Liaisons*) – Cold-hearted seducer.
- 2) Mr Darcy (*Pride and Prejudice*) – Smouldering good looks but very aloof.
- 3) Mr Rochester (*Jane Eyre*) – Drop-dead gorgeous, but hiding a terrible secret.
- 4) Heathcliff (*Wuthering Heights*) – An untameable force of nature.
- 5) Angel Clare (*Tess of the D'Urbervilles*) – The perfect man, but fatally inconstant.
- 6) Tomas (*The Unbearable Lightness of Being*) – Womanising surgeon unable to make a commitment.
- 7) Captain Edward Ashburnham (*The Good Soldier*) – Heroically devoted to women.
- 8) M. de Nemours (*The Princesse of Clèves*) – 'Nature's masterpiece', the handsomest man in France.
- 9) Dorian Gray (*The Picture of Dorian Gray*) – Impossibly fresh-faced connoisseur of depravity.
- 10) Dracula (*Dracula*) – Hypnotically seductive with some disagreeable habits.