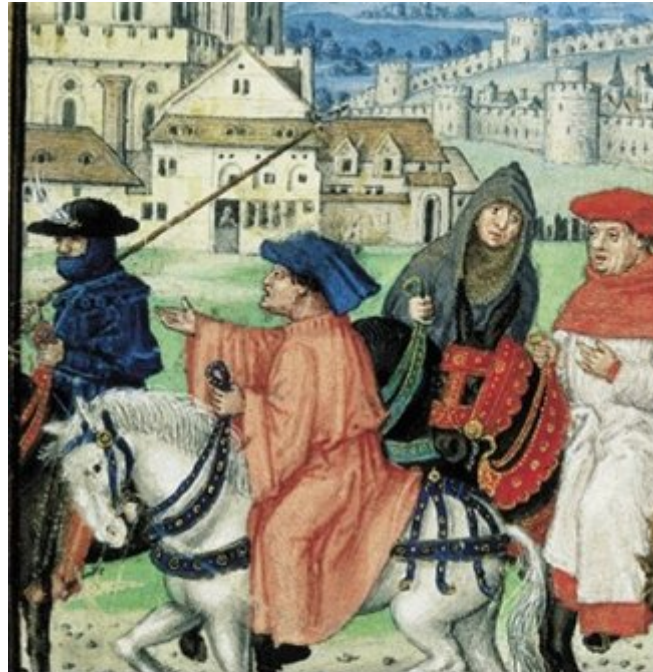


The book was found

The Canterbury Tales (Penguin Classics)



PENGUIN CLASSICS

GEOFFREY CHAUCER
The Canterbury Tales



Synopsis

In *The Canterbury Tales* Chaucer created one of the great touchstones of English literature, a masterly collection of chivalric romances, moral allegories and low farce. A story-telling competition between a group of pilgrims from all walks of life is the occasion for a series of tales that range from the Knight's account of courtly love and the ebullient Wife of Bath's Arthurian legend, to the ribald anecdotes of the Miller and the Cook.

Book Information

File Size: 2073 KB

Print Length: 532 pages

Publisher: Penguin; Rev Ed edition (February 2, 2012)

Publication Date: February 2, 2012

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0718193741

ISBN-13: 978-0718193744

ASIN: B006X2AZHC

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Not Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #178,663 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #54

in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Literature & Fiction > British > Poetry #68 in Books >

Literature & Fiction > Poetry > Ancient, Classical & Medieval > Medieval #68 in Kindle Store >

Kindle eBooks > Literature & Fiction > Religious & Inspirational Fiction > Christian > Poetry

Customer Reviews

Over some period I have read several translations of Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*. My first experience, selections in a high school text, was not promising. (Perhaps, I was not yet ready for Chaucer.) Translating poetry from one language to another is difficult and often unsuccessful.

Translating Chaucer from Middle English is not much easier. English has changed dramatically in the last 600 years, to the point that Middle English is nearly indecipherable. For example, we read Chaucer's description of the Knight's appearance: Of fustian he wered a gipoun (Of coarse cloth he

wore a doublet) Al bismotered with his habergeoun (All rust-spotted by his coat-of-mail) A glossary, diligence, and time are required for reading the original Chaucer. If you choose to do so, the Riverside Chaucer edition (edited by L. Benson) and the Norton Critical Edition (edited by Olson and Kolve) are highly recommended. The Signet Classic paperback edited by D. R. Howard modernizes the spelling a bit, but largely adheres to the original Chaucer and is an easier introduction to Middle English. Although in most cases the instructor assigns a particular version of Canterbury Tales, it can be exceedingly helpful to pick-up an additional version or two. A slightly different translation may entirely surprise you, even resonate with you, making Chaucer much more enjoyable. I suggest that you look for these versions: Selected Canterbury Tales, Dover Thrift edition - provides a poetic, rather than literal interpretation, and is quite readable. The collection of tales is fairly small, however. Canterbury Tales, Penguin edition, translated by Nevill Coghill, is an excellent poetic translation.

The version of this classic I read was a translation into modern English by Nevill Coghill. As you can see above, I awarded Chaucer (and the translation) five stars; but I do have a criticism. This translation (and many other publications of Chaucer) do not contain the two prose tales ("The Tale of Melibee" and "The Parson's Tale"). These are rarely read and I understand the publisher's and the translator's desire to keep the book to a manageable size. Still, that should be the readers decision and no one else's. I had to go to the University library and get a complete copy in order to read those sections. As I mentioned, this copy is a translation into modern English. However, I do recommend that readers take a look at the Middle English version, at least of the Prologue. Many years ago, when I was in high school, my teacher had the entire class memorize the first part of the Prologue in the original Middle English. Almost forty years later, I still know it. I am always stunned at how beautiful, fluid, and melodic the poetry is, even if you don't understand the words.

Twenty-nine pilgrims meet in the Tabard Inn in Southwark on their way to Canterbury. The host suggests that the pilgrims tell four stories each in order to shorten the trip (the work is incomplete in that only twenty-four stories are told). The tales are linked by narrative exchanges and each tale is presented in the manner and style of the character providing the story. This book was a major influence on literature. In fact, the development of the "short story" format owes much to these tales.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

The Canterbury Tales (original-spelling Middle English edition) (Penguin Classics) The Canterbury Tales (Penguin Classics) The Canterbury Tales: Fifteen Tales and the General Prologue (Norton Critical Editions) The Wife of Bath's Prologue and Tale CD: From The Canterbury Tales by Geoffrey

Chaucer Read by Elizabeth Salter (Selected Tales from Chaucer) The Miller's Prologue and Tale
CD: From The Canterbury Tales by Geoffrey Chaucer Read by A. C. Spearing (Selected Tales from
Chaucer) The Merchant's Prologue and Tale CD: From The Canterbury Tales by Geoffrey Chaucer
Read by A. C. Spearing (Selected Tales from Chaucer) The Canterbury Tales (Bantam Classics)
The Canterbury Tales (Oxford World's Classics) Penguin Classics Beyond Good And Evil (Penguin
Modern Classics) The Canterbury Tales: The Knight's Tale (Modern Verse Translation) The
Canterbury Tales [Blackstone] The Canterbury Tales The Canterbury Tales (Dover Thrift Editions)
Selected Canterbury Tales The Canterbury Tales: A New Unabridged Translation by Burton Raffel
Canterbury Tales The Canterbury Tales: A Retelling The Canterbury Tales (Blackstone Audio
Classic Collection) Canterbury Tales - Volume II (Classic Literature With Classical Music. Classic
Fiction) The Selected Canterbury Tales: A New Verse Translation

[Dmca](#)