



Gulliver's Travels n/e (Oxford World's Classics)



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Jonathan Swift

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Gulliver's Travels

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432 pages

Review

"Swift's world-famous satire was an instant bestseller...his vision is dark, often verging on the obscene"
(Robert McCrum *Guardian*)

"It is universally read, from the cabinet council to the nursery" (John Gay (author of The Beggar's Opera))

"It has entered the iconography of western culture as perhaps no other single novel, giving words to the English language and inspiring remarkably diverse acts of homage... A political comedy, an existentialist meditation, a bleak thriller about an outsider caught between worlds...at the heart of Swift's masterwork is an ennobling sadness, a lament for a world gone mad" (Joseph O'Connor *Guardian*)

"Among the six indispensable books in world literature" (George Orwell)

"Everyone standing for political office . . . should have a compulsory examination in Gulliver's Travels"
(Michael Foot) From the Publisher

Lemuel Gulliver, ship's surgeon and castaway, has awoken in Lilliput, where the size of the tiny inhabitants makes their concerns and quarrels seem ridiculous. A second journey takes him to the kingdom of giants, where again his size gives him new adventures by pirates, Gulliver's final voyage brings him to the land of the Houyhnhnms, horses with reason, who share their domain with the brutish Yahoos. He returns to England a changed man. Swift's corrosive satire embraces all aspects of humanity. It is witty when dealing with foibles and frailty, bitterly when facing pride and stupidity, but compassionate and unsentimental when focused upon suffering. From the Inside Flap

The Penguin English Library Edition of Gulliver's Travels by Jonathan Swift 'Fifteen hundred of the Emperor's largest horses, each about four inches and an half high, were employed to draw me towards the Metropolis, which, as I said, was half a Mile distant' A savage and hilarious satire, Gulliver's Travels sees Lemuel Gulliver shipwrecked and adrift, subject to bizarre and unnerving encounters with, among others, quarrelling Lilliputians, philosophizing horses and the brutish Yahoo tribe, that change his view of humanity - and himself - for ever. Swift's classic of 1726 portrays mankind in a distorted hall of mirrors as a diminished, magnified and finally bestial species, presenting us with a comical yet uncompromising reflection of ourselves. The Penguin English Library - 100 editions of the best fiction in English, from the eighteenth century and the very first novels to the beginning of the First World War.

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