



# News from Everyman's Library

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## EVERYMAN'S LIBRARY CELEBRATES ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF FINE BOOKMAKING

This fall, Knopf will celebrate the one hundredth anniversary of Everyman's Library, one of the most extensive and distinguished libraries of classics in the world. Highlighting the celebration will be the publication of six new titles, including three original collections by Joan Didion, Alice Munro, and Roald Dahl.

"Everyman's Library is a literary treasure," said Sonny Mehta, President and Editor-in-Chief of Knopf. "It has been our good fortune not only to keep this valuable resource alive, but to add to it through the years, updating the canon to include contemporary works of merit."

Founded in 1906 by London publisher Joseph Malaby Dent, the stated purpose of Everyman's Library was to make available a collection of the world's literature that would appeal "to every kind of reader." Each volume contained an epigraph which, over the 100 years of the library's existence, came to serve as a familiar emblem to generations of readers: "Everyman, I will go with thee and be thy guide, in thy most need to go by thy side."

### A history of quality and craftsmanship

Soon after their initial launch, Everyman's Library titles became widely collected, because of the enduring quality of the selections, the beautiful craftsmanship of the books themselves, and the affordable prices. Dent produced handsome new editions at just one shilling a volume, declaring that "for a few shillings the reader may have a whole bookshelf of the immortals; for five pounds a man may be intellectually rich for life."

Everyman was re-launched in 1991 by Random House UK and Knopf in the U.S. It has since published more than 500 titles and sold more than 12 million books. The late Auberon Waugh wrote, "the best thing that has happened in publishing in the years I have edited the *Literary Review* is undoubtedly the resurrection of the Everyman's Library."

Everyman also publishes a series of small, elegantly produced pocket poetry titles, as well as a line of children's classics that has brought back into print such great illustrators as Aubrey Beardsley, Ivan Bilibin, Walter Crane, Kate Greenaway, Edward Lear, Mervyn Peake, Arthur Rackham and W. Heath Robinson.

In manufacturing titles for Everyman's Library, Knopf has maintained the series's original commitment to fine bookmaking. Each title features full-cloth sewn bindings, silk-bead headbands, ribbon markers, classic typefaces, acid-free paper, and special endpapers. In addition, the series is acclaimed for its substantial introductions, written by some of the finest scholars and writers of our time, including Peter Ackroyd, Martin Amis, Julian Barnes, John Bayley, Harold Bloom, Malcolm Bradbury, Anita Desai, Victoria Glendinning, Seamus Heaney, Frank Kermode, V.S. Pritchett, Simon Schama, Claire Tomalin and John Updike. Yet prices have remained moderate, ranging for the most part between \$17 and \$24.

### Coming this fall: Didion, Dahl, Munro, Atwood, Eco, and Morrison

In September and October, Everyman will publish six titles, including three original collections: *We Tell Ourselves Stories in Order to Live: Collected Nonfiction* by Joan Didion, introduced by John Leonard; *Collected Stories* by Roald Dahl, introduced by Jeremy Treglown; *Carried Away: A Selection of Stories* by Alice Munro, introduced by Margaret Atwood; *The Handmaid's Tale* by Margaret Atwood, introduced by Valerie Martin; *The Name of the Rose* by Umberto Eco, introduced by David Lodge; and *Beloved* by Toni Morrison, introduced by A.S. Byatt.

In the May 21st issue of *The New York Times Book Review*, Morrison's *Beloved* will be named the best work of fiction published in the last 25 years. *Song of Solomon*, her acclaimed 1977 novel, is already available in an Everyman's Library edition. Morrison received the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1993.

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