

Greatest Books You'll Never Read: Unpublished masterpieces by the world's greatest writers

Erica Jarnes



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Why was Thomas Hardy's first novel never published? What happened to the manuscript of the long promised 'magnum opus' that Truman Capote never delivered? Why did Heinrich Böll abandon his *Paradise Lost*? These and many other intriguing mysteries are uncovered in this comprehensive guide to literature's lost and unfinished masterpieces.

From a creative crisis to a dissatisfied editor, and from a bizarre twist of fate to an untimely death, behind each unpublished book lies a unique and compelling story. One of the giants of modern literature, Ernest Hemingway, saw three years of work, including a novel and several short stories, vanish when his wife's suitcase was stolen in the Gare de Lyon in Paris. Evelyn Waugh, on the other hand, burned the manuscript of his first novel and attempted to drown himself after a friend gave it a bad review.

Covering an eclectic range of international authors, both living and dead, *The Greatest Books You'll Never Read* unearths an alternative literary history that is fascinating and heartbreaking in equal measure.

Each ill-fated book, from Karl Marx's comic novel *Scorpion and Felix* to Stephenie Meyer's *Twilight* spinoff *Midnight Sun*, is examined in an in-depth essay, with selected entries featuring manuscript extracts.

Specially commissioned covers by acclaimed designers illustrate each entry, bringing to life these lost literary wonders.

At once entertaining and enlightening, *The Greatest Books You'll Never Read* will be loved by bookworms everywhere.

Erica Jarnes worked as an editor at Bloomsbury for eight years before becoming Literature Programmer at the South Bank Centre. She is involved in organizing Port Eliot Festival, a prestigious literary gathering that attracts authors from around the globe, and is passionate about promoting translated fiction. She lives in London.

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