Arabella Trefoil, the beautiful anti-heroine of The American Senator, was described by Trollope one of the ‘women who run down husbands’. Her actions are seen through the eyes of The American senator of the title, Elias Gotobed, who sits in the US Senate for the fictional state of Mikewa. The guest of John Morton (Arabella’s betrothed), Senator Gotobed learns about the English over one winter in England. He witnesses intrigue and romance (as Arabella stalks the rich but elusive Lord Rufford), and English country life in all aspects from the richest of peers and the poorest of farmers. Through his often-tactless remarks in conversation, through his letters to a friend in America, and through a lecture in London titled “The Irrationality of Englishmen”, he comments on British justice and government, the Church of England, and other aspects of English life.

An Autobiography and Other Writings
Anthony Trollope

I hated the office. I hated my work...the only career in life within my reach was that of an author.' The only autobiography by a major Victorian novelist, Trollope’s account offers a fascinating insight into his literary life and opinions. After a miserable childhood and misspent youth, Trollope turned his life around at the age of twenty-six. By 1860 the ‘hobbledehoy’ had become both a senior civil servant and a best-selling novelist. He worked
for the Post Office for many years and stood unsuccessfully for Parliament. Best-known for the two series of novels grouped loosely around the clerical and political professions, the Barsetshire and Palliser series, in his Autobiography Trollope frankly describes his writing habits. His apparent preoccupation with contracts, deadlines, and earnings, and his account of the remorseless regularity with which he produced his daily quota of words, has divided opinion ever since. This edition reassesses the work’s distinctive qualities and includes a selection of Trollope’s critical writings to show how subtle and complex his approach to literature really was.

Barchester Towers The Chronicles of Barsetshire
Anthony Trollope

John Bowen (ed.)
Published in Print: 09 O Published Online: 16 December 2020
Published Online: 16 December 2020
Form: book
DOI: 10.1093/owc/9780199665860.001.0001

‘Mr Slope flattered himself that he could out-maneuvre the lady…he did not doubt of ultimate triumph.’ Barchester Towers (1857) was the book that made Trollope's reputation and it remains his most popular and enjoyable novel. The arrival of a new bishop in Barchester, accompanied by his formidable wife and ambitious chaplain, Obadiah Slope, sets the town in turmoil as Archdeacon Grantly declares ‘War, war, internecine war!’ on Bishop Proudie and his supporters. Who will come out on top in the battle between the archdeacon, the bishop, Mr Slope, and Mrs Proudie? The livelihood of Mr Harding, the saintly hero of The Warden, is once more under threat but clerical warfare finds itself tangled up in the wayward (and sometimes perverse) desires of the many courtships, seductions, and romances of the book. Who will marry Eleanor Bold? Can any man resist the charms of the exotically beautiful ‘La Signora Madeline Vesey Neroni’? Will the oily Mr Slope finally get his comeuppance? Trollope's matchless handling of plot and character displays a skill whose distinctive literary qualities are celebrated in this new edition.

Can You Forgive Her?
Anthony Trollope

Dinah Birch (ed.)
Published in Print: 08 M Published Online: 16 December 2020
Format: book
DOI: 10.1093/owc/9780199578177.001.0001

‘She loved him much, and admired him even more than she loved him…Would that he had some faults!’ Alice Vavasor is torn between a risky marriage with her ambitious cousin George and the safer prospect of a union with the formidably correct John Grey. Her indecision is reflected in the dilemmas of her friend Lady Glencora, confined in the
proprieties of her life with Plantagenet Palliser but tempted to escape with her penniless lover Burgo Fitzgerald, and of her aunt, the irreverent widow Mrs Greenow, who must choose between a solid farmer and an untrustworthy soldier as her next husband. Each woman finds her choice bound up with the cold realities of money, and the tension between public expectation and private inclination. Can You Forgive Her? is the first of Trollope’s six Palliser novels, and its focus on the exercise of power, whether in the masculine world of parliament and the professions, or within the domesticities of friendship, courtship, and marriage, signals a new breadth and diversity of interest in his fiction.

Cousin Henry
Anthony Trollope

Julian Thompson (ed.)

Published in Print: 09 O Published Online: 16 December 2020
Format: book

Henry Jones, an unprepossessing London insurance clerk, knows that his uncle has disinherited him. The old man’s will, made out at the last minute in favour of Henry’s charming cousin Isabel Brodrick, lies neatly folded in a well-thumbed volume of sermons in his book-room; Henry saw him put it there before he died. Unfortunately nobody else knows where the will is, and Henry stands to lose everything by making the knowledge public. Cousin Henry, first published in 1879, is one of the most unusual and intriguing of Trollope’s shorter novels and its unlikely hero is a timid coward consumed by guilt. But Trollope’s handling of his character and dilemma is masterly in its insight and compassion; he knew he had nothing quite like it elsewhere in his fiction.

Doctor Thorne
The Chronicles of Barsetshire
Anthony Trollope

Simon Dentith (ed.)

Published in Print: 13 N Published Online: 16 December 2020
Format: book

‘Frank has but one duty before him. He must marry money.’ The squire of Greshamsbury has fallen on hard times, and it is incumbent on his son Frank to make a good marriage. But Frank loves the doctor's niece, Mary Thorne, a girl with no money and mysterious parentage. He faces a terrible dilemma: should he save the estate, or marry the girl he loves? Mary, too, has to battle her feelings, knowing that marrying Frank would ruin his family and fly in the face of his mother's opposition. Her pride is matched by that of her uncle, Dr Thorne, who has to decide whether to reveal a secret that would resolve Frank's difficulty, or to uphold the innate merits of his own family heritage. The character of Dr Thorne
reflects Trollope's own contradictory feelings about the value of tradition and the need for change. His subtle portrayal, and the comic skill and gentle satire with which the story is developed, are among the many pleasures of this delightful novel.

The Duke's Children
Anthony Trollope

Katherine Mullin (ed.), and Francis O'Gorman (ed.)

Published in Print: 11 A Published Online: 16 December 2020
Format: book

‘I do not know that one ought to be surprised at anything.’ The Duke of Omnium is overwhelmed by the death of his vivacious wife, Lady Glencora. Once the British Prime Minister, he is now in sole charge of his three wilful children. Lord Gerald has been sent down from University; Lord Silverbridge has defected from the Liberal cause of his father's party to the Conservative, and is badly in debt; Lady Mary has fallen in love with Frank Tregear, a commoner with a will of iron but no money. The Duke, troubled and without easy relationships with any of his children, tries to impose his own will. But the result seems to move the novel towards calamity. Searching the great topics of compromise and principle, of obedience and dissent, of personal integrity and the conflicts between generations, The Duke's Children is a domestic story with far-reaching political issues at stake. It is a fitting end to the Palliser series, one of the most remarkable achievements of British fiction. ABOUT THE SERIES: For over 100 years Oxford World's Classics has made available the widest range of literature from around the globe. Each affordable volume reflects Oxford's commitment to scholarship, providing the most accurate text plus a wealth of other valuable features, including expert introductions by leading authorities, helpful notes to clarify the text, up-to-date bibliographies for further study, and much more.

The Eustace Diamonds
Anthony Trollope

Helen Small (ed.)

Published in Print: 12 M Published Online: 16 December 2020
Format: book

‘She liked lies…To lie readily and cleverly, recklessly and yet successfully, was, according to the lessons which she had learned, a necessity in a woman.’ Lizzie Eustace is young, beautiful, and widowed. Her determination to hold on to the Eustace family’s diamond necklace in the face of legal harassment by her brother-in-law’s solicitor entangles her in a series of crimes - apparent and real - and contrived love-affairs. Her cousin Frank, Tory MP and struggling barrister, loyally assists her, to the distress of his fiance, Lucy Morris.
A pompous Under-Secretary of State, an exploitative and acquisitive American and her unhappy niece, a shady radical peer, and a brutal aristocrat are only some of the characters in this, one of Trollope’s most engaging novels: part sensation fiction, part detective story, part political satire, and part ironic romance. The Eustace Diamonds (1873) belongs to Trollope’s Palliser series. Though often considered the least political of the six novels, it is a highly revealing study of Victorian Britain, its colonial activities in Ireland and India, its veneration of wealth, and its pervasive dishonesty.

Framley Parsonage
The Chronicles of Barsetshire
Anthony Trollope
Katherine Mullin (ed.), and Francis O’Gorman (ed.)
Published in Print: 13 N Published Online: 16 December 2020
Format: book

‘The fact is, Mark, that you and I cannot conceive the depth of fraud in such a man as that.’ The Reverend Mark Robarts makes a mistake. Drawn into a social set at odds with his clerical responsibilities, he guarantees the debts of an unscrupulous Member of Parliament. He stands to lose his reputation, and his family, future, and home are all in peril. His patroness, the proud and demanding Lady Lufton, is offended and the romantic hopes of Mark's sister Lucy, courted by Lady Lufton's son, are in jeopardy. Pride and ambition are set against love and integrity in a novel that has remained one of Trollope's most popular stories. Set against ecclesiastical events in the Barchester diocese and informed by British political instability after the Crimean War, Trollope's fourth Barchester novel was his first major success. A compelling history of uncertain futures, Framley Parsonage is a vivid exploration of emotional and geographical displacement that grew out of Trollope's own experiences as he returned to England from Ireland in 1859.

He Knew He Was Right
Anthony Trollope
John Sutherland (ed.)
Published in Print: 13 N Published Online: 01 February 2021
Format: book

Widely regarded as one of Trollope’s most successful later novels, He Knew He Was Right is a study of marriage and of sexual relationships cast against a background of agitation for women’s rights.
Lady Anna
Anthony Trollope
Stephen Orgel (ed.)

Published in Print: 09 O Published Online: 16 December 2020
Format: book

abstract
When it appeared in 1874, Lady Anna met with little success, and positively outraged the conservative - ‘This is the sort of thing the reading public will never stand…a man must be embittered by some violent present exasperation who can like such disruptions of social order as this.’ (Saturday Review) - although Trollope himself considered it ‘the best novel I ever wrote! Very much! Quite far away above all others!!!’ This tightly constructed and passionate study of enforced marriage in the world of Radical politics and social inequality, records the lifelong attempt of Countess Lovel to justify her claim to her title, and her daughter Anna’s legitimacy, after her husband announces that he already has a wife. However, mother and daughter are driven apart when Anna defies her mother’s wish that she marry her cousin, heir to her father’s title, and falls in love with journeyman tailor and young Radical Daniel Thwaite. The outcome is never in doubt, but Trollope’s ambivalence on the question is profound, and the novel both intense and powerful.

The Last Chronicle of Barset
The Chronicles of Barsetshire
Anthony Trollope
Helen Small (ed.)

Published in Print: 11 D Published Online: 16 December 2020
Format: book

‘All Hogglestock believed their parson to be innocent; but then all Hogglestock believed him to be mad.’ Josiah Crawley lives with his family in the parish of Hogglestock, East Barsetshire, where he is perpetual curate. Impoverished like his parishioners, Crawley is hard-working and respected but he is an unhappy, disappointed man, ill-suited to cope when calamity strikes. He is accused of stealing a cheque to pay off his debts; too proud to defend himself, he risks ruin and disgrace unless the truth can be brought to light. Crawley’s predicament divides the community into those who seek to help him despite himself, and those who, like Mrs Proudie, are convinced of his guilt. When the Archbishop’s son, Major Grantly, falls in love with Crawley’s daughter Grace, battle lines are drawn. The final volume in the Barsetshire series, The Last Chronicle draws to a close the stories of many beloved characters, including the old Warden, Mr Harding, Johnny Eames, and Lily Dale. Panoramic in scale, elegiac and moving, it is perhaps Trollope’s greatest novel.
There was a power of endurance about her, and a courage that was almost awful. Did Lady Mason forge a codicil to her husband's will, allowing Orley Farm to pass to her son or not? Orley Farm centres on this case of forgery, and the anguish and guilt of Lady Mason. Surrounding this enigmatic woman and her apparent crime are her elderly lover, Sir Peregrine Orme; her principled but thoughtless son, Lucius; and, not least, a group of determined lawyers. Orley Farm contains the plot with which Trollope was most pleased. Drawing on family experience of the loss of an inheritance, the novel tackles the tremendous question of property fraud. The result, as George Orwell observed, is one of the most brilliant novels about a law suit in English fiction. Orley Farm dates from a confident period of its author's life. It breathes an air of writerly assurance, with Trollope at the height of his competitiveness with Dickens. In this work Trollope claims the Victorian legal novel as his own.

Phineas Finn

Anthony Trollope

Simon Dentith (ed.)

‘To become a member of the British Parliament!… He almost thought that he could die happy.’ Phineas Finn, the handsome Irishman, is equally successful at scaling the political ladder and gaining the affection of influential women. As he makes his precarious way in parliament he discovers how far principles must be sacrificed to the common cause, and how essential money is to political progress. Set during the turbulent passage of the second Reform Act of 1867, the novel paints a vivid picture of the compromises and tactics of daily political life. Loss of independence is felt just as keenly by Lady Laura and Violet Effingham, whose choice of marriage partner will determine their future freedom as much as their happiness. With politics and the personal so closely entwined, Phineas faces an act of conscience that will have a profound effect on his life. The second novel in Trollope’s Palliser series, Phineas Finn’s engaging plot embraces matters as diverse as reform, the position of women, the Irish question, and the conflict between integrity and ambition.
Phineas Redux
Anthony Trollope

John Bowen (ed.)

Published in Print: 10 November 2020
Published Online: 16 December 2020
Format: book

Publisher: Oxford University Press
DOI: 10.1093/owc/9780199583485.001.0001

It is no good any longer having any opinion upon anything.’ After the death of his wife, the handsome politician Phineas Finn returns from Ireland to the parliamentary fray. In his absence the political and social world has subtly changed, parties and policies no longer fixed and advancement dependent upon scheming and alliances. His private life lays him open to the scandal-mongering press, and the wild accusations of an unhinged rival; but much more than his reputation is at stake when he is accused of murdering a political opponent. Trollope shows a remarkably prescient sense of the importance of intrigue, bribery, and sexual scandal, and the power of the press to make or break a political career. He is equally skilled in portraying the complex nature of Phineas's romantic entanglements with three powerful women: the mysterious Madame Max, the devoted Laura Kennedy, and the irrepressible Lady Glencora (now Duchess of Omnium). The fourth of Trollope's Palliser novels, Phineas Redux is one of his most spellbinding achievements, and the first modern ‘media’ novel.

The Prime Minister
Anthony Trollope

Nicholas Shrimpton (ed.)

Published in Print: 12 March 2020
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Format: book

‘Though a great many men and not a few women knew Ferdinand Lopez very well, none of them knew whence he had come.’ Despite his mysterious antecedents, Ferdinand Lopez aspires to join the ranks of British society. An unscrupulous financial speculator, he determines to marry into respectability and wealth, much against the wishes of his prospective father-in-law. One of the nineteenth century’s most memorable outsiders, Lopez’s story is set against that of the ultimate insider, Plantagenet Palliser, Duke of Omnium. Omnium reluctantly accepts the highest office of state; now, at last, he is ‘the greatest man in the greatest country in the world’. But his government is a fragile coalition and his wife’s enthusiastic assumption of the role of political hostess becomes a source of embarrassment. Their troubled relationship and that of Lopez and Emily Wharton is a conjunction that generates one of Trollope’s most complex and substantial novels. Part of the Palliser series, The Prime Minister’s tale of personal and political life in the 1870s has acquired a new topicality in the early twenty-first century.
This is Trollope’s most detailed and concise study of middle-class life in a small provincial community - in this case Baslehurst, in the luscious Devon countryside. It is also a charming love-story, centring on sweet-natured Rachel Ray and her suitor Luke Rowan, whose battle to wrest control over Baslehurst’s brewery involves a host of typically Trollopian local characters.

The Small House at Allington

Anthony Trollope

Dinah Birch (ed.)

‘She had resolved to trust in everything, and, having so trusted, she would not provide for herself any possibility of retreat.’ Lively and attractive, Lily Dale lives with her mother and sister at the Small House at Allington. She falls passionately in love with the urbane Adolphus Crosbie, and is devastated when he abandons her for the aristocratic Lady Alexandrina de Courcy. But Lily has another suitor, Johnny Eames, who has been devoted to her since boyhood. Perhaps she can find renewed happiness in Johnny’s courtship? The Small House at Allington was among the most successful of Trollope's Barsetshire novels, and has retained its popularity among modern readers. Lily Dale's stubborn constancy is a troubling reflection of Trollope's divided feelings about the need for progress and reform in the context of liberal thought and politics. Her story is a subtle exploration of loyalty and ambition, and the pressure for change in a rapidly evolving world.

The Warden

Anthony Trollope

Nicholas Shrimpton (ed.)
‘You might pass Eleanor Harding in the street without notice, but you could hardly pass an evening with her and not lose your heart.’ John Bold has lost his heart to Eleanor Harding but he is a political radical who has launched a campaign against the management of the charity of which her father is the Warden. How can this tangle be resolved? In the novel which is Trollope's first acknowledged masterpiece, the emotional drama is staged against the background of two major contemporary social issues: the inappropriate use of charitable funds and the irresponsible exercise of the power of the press. A witty love story, in the Jane Austen tradition, this is also an unusually subtle example of ‘Condition of England’ fiction, combining its charming portrayal of life in an English cathedral close with a serious engagement in larger social and political issues. The Warden is the first of the six books which form Trollope's Barsetshire series of novels. This edition also includes ‘The Two Heroines of Plumplington’ - the short story which Trollope added, just before his death, to provide a final episode in the annals of Barsetshire.

The Way We Live Now
Anthony Trollope

Francis O'Gorman (ed.)

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Format: book

‘Love is like any other luxury. You have no right to it unless you can afford it.’ It is impossible to be sure who Melmotte is, let alone what exactly he has done. He is, seemingly, a gentleman, and a great financier, who penetrates to the heart of the state, reaching even inside the Houses of Parliament. He draws the English establishment into his circle, including Lady Carbury, a 43 year-old coquette and her son Felix, who is persuaded to invest in a notional railway business. Huge sums of money are at stake, as well as romantic happiness. The Way We Live Now is usually thought Trollope's major work of satire but is better described as his most substantial exploration of a form of crime fiction, where the crimes are both literal and moral. It is a text preoccupied by detection and the unmasking of swindlers. As such it is a narrative of exceptional tension: a novel of rumour, gossip, and misjudgment, where every second counts. For many of Trollope's characters, calamity and exposure are just around the corner.