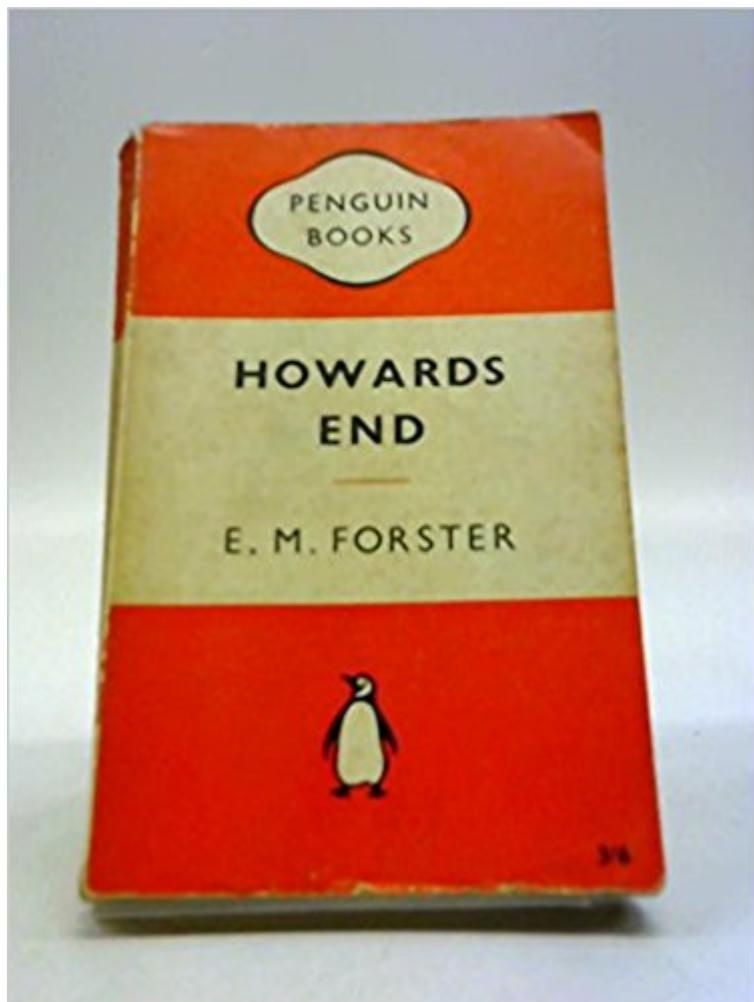


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Howard's End



Book Information

Paperback

Publisher: Penguin; Reprint edition (1960)

Language: English

ASIN: B000PCA8OQ

Package Dimensions: 7.8 x 5.1 x 1 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds

Average Customer Review: 3.8 out of 5 stars 268 customer reviews

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Customer Reviews

This review applies only to the print of the book, not the novel. The print of the book with three trees on the cover is terrible - looks like the pages were Xerox copied. The font is awfully small and the margins are slanted. There is no information who the publisher.

From the picture it probably looks like this is a decent edition of the book. It's not. The cover is made of cheap material that looks like the image was scanned from a different book (it was) and printed on. The inside is completely unformatted and looks like someone literally printed the Gutenberg page and bound it - no end papers, no cover pages, nothing but text from the first page to the last. Worst of all, for less than this price you could have a real edition of the book.

This is a lovely book, a great read. This edition, however, is poorly done. There are a number of typographical errors (some of which are quite distracting, as I dislike finding erroneous punctuation marks inserted randomly) and the pages are not set well. The margins were badly formulated, leaving less than a 1/4" for the outer edges, which is both aesthetically unpleasing and impractical, as it makes taking marginal notes an impossibility. The paper quality is fine, but the book looks cheap nonetheless. I occasionally buy Dover Thrift editions of classics, as they are very cheap and fairly reliable, but I wanted a higher quality edition of this novel. I was wrong: the Dover Thrift edition might actually be about the same quality as this one, perhaps even better, and it is a much better buy.

Howard's End is a novel that transcends time, space, nation, or setting. It deals with what is most important in life: relationships. How we connect to our fellow human beings is what concerned EM Forster. And he dealt with the issue masterfully. Truly one of the greatest things ever written in the English language. Reading this book, I mean REALLY reading it, so that it gets into the dark crevices of your soul and enlightens it just a little, will make you a better human being to others. And that is the whole point of both being human and of literature.

I really loved this book in many ways. One of my favorite things about it was that when the characters were talking, it would make the pacing of the story a bit hectic, and then the author would begin to describe things in an almost philosophical way that was very soothing. I loved that continual back and forth of energy flow. One thing that I thought was really interesting about this book was the hindsight. In hindsight you could see at exactly what point the inevitable tragic end was set in motion. All the way back to one casual comment, and then the characters were just acting true to their nature, being the only people they could be, the people they were. And the results led to a man's death. But just because something so terrible happens does NOT mean that people would not enjoy the book. It was a very compelling book, and one I'm sure I'll read several more times over the course of my life, and I highly recommend it.

Friend told me that Forster's writing style reminded her of Chechov's works. We both grew up with Russian classics and I had to try this one - I know it is a famous work, but I will probably never catch up with all "cultural gaps" I still have in English written literature. Actually, I have read one work by this author - "Maurice", so I was somewhat familiar with his writing, but nothing else. I loved it - I read a lot of genre fiction and mostly review romance books, but I had to say at least something about this one. Yes, it did remind me of Chechov a lot and mostly because author's look at his characters was so very sympathetic no matter how unsympathetic these people could act. It is a realistic book, that's pretty much sums it up in my opinion. Yes, it is also a portrayal of British culture at that time, but I did not grow up in that culture, so I cannot say how well it was done, I just enjoyed very well written story which felt like real life, but made sense.

This book has a symmetry that reminds me of that of All the Light You Cannot See, which makes it inherently satisfying. Sadly, its social commentary is still very relevant today, making it a great reading choice, but a disturbing one. The writing itself falls a little clumsily on the modern ear, and some of it is a little obtuse. All in all, it is a very interesting look at British aristocracy in its waning

days of the Empire.

This is a beautifully written book about two unconventional sisters who outwit societal constrictions to find rich and satisfying lives. It's also a hell of a yarn. I read this during a trip, and picked it up and put it down along the way. It is stunning, as is a film of the same name.

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