



**George Orwell Omnibus: The Complete Novels:
Animal Farm, Burmese Days, A Clergyman's
Daughter, Coming up for Air, Keep the Aspidistra
Flying, and Nineteen Eighty-Four**

George Orwell

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The complete novels of George Orwell in a single tome - a can't miss for fans and those new to Orwell alike!

George Orwell Omnibus: The Complete Novels: Animal Farm, Burmese Days, A Clergyman's Daughter, Coming up for Air, Keep the Aspidistra Flying, and Nineteen Eighty-Four Details

Date : Published 1983 by Penguin Books Ltd (first published 1976)

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Author : George Orwell

Format : Paperback 925 pages

Genre : Fiction, Classics, Literature

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From Reader Review George Orwell Omnibus: The Complete Novels: Animal Farm, Burmese Days, A Clergyman's Daughter, Coming up for Air, Keep the Aspidistra Flying, and Nineteen Eighty-Four for online ebook

Doreen says

Animal Farm -- It's weird to think that I've lived this long, as voracious a reader as I am, and still have never read this slender classic in its entirety. Of course I know what happens as the book is a cultural touchstone, but this omnibus was missing the first five chapters, so I am still ignorant of its entirety. What I did read was thoroughly worthy of its status, tho! Oddly enough, the bff has never read Animal Farm end to end either: yet another thing we have in common.

Burmese Days -- A stunning indictment of colonialism that is at once sympathetic to all the parties involved. Better than most Maugham, IMO.

A Clergyman's Daughter -- I mostly enjoyed this, and was quite impressed with his rendering of her. Another great examination of morality and choices, as well as the social circumstances of the times. Hard to read this without coming out of it with greater sympathy for the homeless.

Coming Up For Air -- Hard to believe this was fiction, given how inhabited it felt. Wasn't sure I'd like it, tbh, from the blurb, so was pleasantly surprised. Thought it ended rather abruptly, but was otherwise happy to just spend time in the narrator's self-examined life.

Keep The Aspidistra Flying -- What the hell was this garbage? Comstock is the fucking worst: a whiner surrounded by good people whose affection and devotion he returns with sheer awfulness. I can see why Orwell wanted this manuscript burned before publication.

1984 -- Did not read this this go-round, but enjoyed it when I read it on its own ages ago.

Peter says

ANIMAL FARM - 3 Stars

"All animals are equal, but some are more equal than others"

BURMESE DAYS - 3 Stars

Seedy, sweaty & acerbic dissection of the contradictions and moral destitution of British colonial India.

A CLERGYMAN'S DAUGHTER - 1 Star

A Clerics daughter loses her memory and embarks on an adventure of self discovery. Probably Orwell's worst novel.

COMING UP FOR AIR - 4 Stars

Mid life crises & nostalgia. Very well written. The best of his lesser known novels, akin to H.G.Wells' "The History of Mr Polly"

KEEP THE ASPIDESTRA FLYING - 3 stars

Accurately exposes the achilles heel of Marxism.

A well observed and thoroughly unlikeable main character, that every graduate will recognise, at least in part, as a caricature of themselves or someone they once knew and is almost certainly autobiographical.

NINETEEN EIGHTY FOUR - 4 Stars

Big Brother, Truespeak and Room 101.

Prophetic and insightful!

Is there anybody who doesn't know what this book is about?

Bre Teschendorf says

... sad ending!

But I like the over-all feeling//philosophy!

I live in East Berlin.

I *still* deal with the effects of 2+2 equaling 5 every day. Not good.

Robert says

I studied Animal Farm for my Eng.Lit. GCSE exams, along with MacBeth; my idea of revision was to read both of them five times. This worked reasonably well as I got a B grade. There was an unfortunate side-effect, however; despite liking both I was, after the exams, unable to touch a copy of either without getting the shakes. Fast forward more than 20 years and a discussion here at Goodreads regarding whether Squealer was a "subtle" (ab)user of language prompts me to finally pick up Animal Farm once more.

THIS REVIEW HAS BEEN CURTAILED IN PROTEST AT GOODREADS' CENSORSHIP POLICY

See the complete review here:

<http://arbieroo.booklikes.com/post/33...>

GR Bonus: Have the GR management read this? Do they realise it's satire not an instruction manual?

Jackie Chiknas says

Why limit yourself to only one book at a time? I read 1984 every ten years or so, just to remind myself of how precious freedom is.

Chris Chinchilla says

Contains the complete novels of George Orwell: *Animal Farm*, *Burmese Days*, *A Clergyman's Daughter*, *Coming up for Air*, *Keep the Aspidistra Flying* and *Nineteen Eighty-Four*.

Includes explanatory notes on the etymology of the language 'Newspeak'.

Review

'Orwell described the compromised lives we recognize as our own' - Andrew Motion, Observer
'A writer who can -- and must -- be rediscovered with every age' Irish Times

About the Author

Eric Arthur Blair (George Orwell) was born in India in 1903. He was educated at Eton, served with the Indian Imperial Police in Burma, and worked in Britain as a private tutor, schoolteacher, bookshop assistant and journalist. In 1936, Orwell went to fight for the Republicans in the Spanish Civil War and was wounded. In 1938 he was admitted into a sanatorium and from then on was never fully fit. George Orwell died in London in 1950.

Stephen Hayes says

Since this is a collection of novels, I'll comment on each one separately as I read it, on my Khanya blog, and when I've done with all of them may add some comments on the collected works here. I begin with *Burmese Days*, because that was the first one in the collection that I hadn't read.

The next one in the series is *A clergyman's daughter*, to which I give only three stars. Not that it's a bad book, but it has some faults that I didn't see in *Burmese Days*.

Coming up for Air is a strange book. I was determined not to like it, and yet I felt compelled to finish it, though couldn't stand to read much more than a chapter a day; a page-turner it wasn't. It's about a fat middle-aged salesman living a dull middle-class life in a dull London suburb, who goes out to get his new set of false teeth. On the way he sees a poster about King Zog's wedding, and that sets him off reminiscing about his childhood in a small town in Oxfordshire. One expects the memories to last for a chapter or two, but they go on and on and on.

Christine says

Read *Animal farm* and *1984* from this book, a lot of it was hard going. I think you have to be a genuine Orwell fan to appreciate his work otherwise it feels like a hard slog to read. Didn't finish the other books in this collection unfortunately.

Peg says

Animal Farm - had never read it before. An interesting book considering the definition of allegorical.

I loved re-reading Nineteen Eighty Four. It has been decades, but it never lost value. written in 1949, it's amazing in its vision. When I first read the book it was in the 70's. Now in 2013 it is amazing to look back on what the vision for the world was in 1949 and how much has actually come to fruition.

The other books - not as outstanding as I had hoped for. Though some have given them rave reviews - I thought the reading was a bit tedious.

Lynell says

Really enjoyed all these stories. They were filled with nostalgic references. He managed to remind me that our world has been deteriorating for a very long time. The human condition has always been suffering but we can rise above this. I wish he had written more because I got the strongest sense that he had so much more to say.

TheAuntie says

1984 *****

Martin says

While my average rating for the six novels included in this massive collection is closer to 4 than 5 stars, I feel I must give this particular edition full marks for the following two reasons: (1) it collects all six of Orwell's novels, and (2) because it is ridiculously affordable - especially when purchased online! This is one collection that is not to be missed.

Here, then, are my reviews for the individual novels included in this collection:

Animal Farm - 5 stars

A great little book which should be mandatory reading for anyone over the age of 12. A perfect example of concision and allegory, and a study in the perversion of ideals & the corrupting effect of power. Plenty of not-so-subtle references to past (& present) dictatorships, but also a frightening reminder that there are still plenty of Animal Farms in today's world. Read this today, if you haven't already!

Burmese Days - 4 stars

Having first read about Burma in Guy Delisle's Burma Chronicles (which I recommend, by the way), my interest was piqued. Factor in George Orwell writing a book about his own experiences there in the 1920's (with his trademark wit and insights), and what the result was - in *my* case, anyway - was what the French call *un incontournable*, that is, literally, something which you cannot go around.

Flory really is the center of the story. (view spoiler) Through his eyes, we see the dirty side of colonialism, what they don't tell you about in school or in travel brochures. It really is unfortunate that , almost 100 years later, we still have the same problems with racism and the exploitation of third world countries. Empires change, but the practice remains the same...

There are some obvious parallels with Joseph Conrad's Heart of Darkness.

A Clergyman's Daughter - 2 measly stars!

So how, exactly, is *A Clergyman's Daughter*? Even Orwell, so it's said, didn't like this book - and he wrote it! That's not very encouraging. And apparently the *only* part of the book he liked was the part I *didn't* like. (view spoiler)

Shows you how much I know!

There *were* some elements that I liked about the story, like Orwell's description of a manual labourer's life, and his commentary on private schools, but the bottom line is that I couldn't continue reading about Dorothy Hare's miserable life much longer. I can't understand how she could just go back to what she was before - essentially a slave of some sort. Maybe it's because it's all she's known for a number of years... In any case, the book ended on a disappointing note, with Dorothy being back *exactly* where she started.

After *Animal Farm* and *Burmese Days*, and liking both of them, I was expecting more from this book.

Coming Up for Air - 5 stars

This is one of those books of which I knew nothing about - I hadn't even looked it up on Goodreads - and it turned out to be one of those pleasant surprises. This is one book I know for a fact I'll be re-reading.

Sure, Orwell is mostly known for *Animal Farm* and *1984*, but this book deserves to be better known.

Keep the Aspidistra Flying - 4 stars

Not the most uplifting book you'll read in your life, but definitely more engaging than *A Clergyman's Daughter*, which was at times a tedious read. As usual with George Orwell books, you get a lot of food for thought, and that's more than can be said about a lot of other books.

1984 - 5 stars

It's really amazing how astute and prescient George Orwell was; the dystopia of *1984* can and *does* seem very familiar, and that is because - depending on what country we're talking about - some or a lot of Oceania, The Party, and Big Brother, can be seen as actually happening *right now!* In the case of North Korea, for example, the reality there is so like that of Oceania, that it would come as no surprise to me to learn that Kim Il-sung, that country's "Eternal President of the Republic", had used Orwell's novel as a how-to in establishing his dictatorship on this Asian nation. (North Korea was created in 1948, and *1984* was published in 1949, so the above theory, though admittedly far-fetched and mentioned only at a feeble attempt at humour, *could* in fact be plausible!)

News fabrication, "Us Vs. Them" mentality (and its close cousin: "With Us Or Against Us"), the government's own perceived infallibility, torture, false confessions, revisionist history, censorship, fear mongering, denunciations, governments spying on their own (and other countries') populace... All part of Orwell's *1984*, but also part of today's reality more or less extensively, depending on where you live. Kind of depressing, really.

This is one book everyone should read at least once in their lifetime.

J. Watson (aka umberto) says

I bought this Modern Classics paperback yesterday (Sept. 3) since its fonts are larger, easier to read than the one published earlier, that is, in Penguin Classics 2000. I simply couldn't stand reading it so I sold it away to a second-hand bookshop in Bangkok.

I would start rereading 'Burmese Days' as soon as I can find time.

Today (Nov.17), I finished reading 'Burmese Days'.

Jack Strange says

There's no denying Orwell's ability to tell a good story and these are all classic novels but they all suffer from having a fairly grim subtext about human nature and foibles. Orwell went to Eton, spent some time in the Burmese police force when it was part of the British Empire and wrote about down and outs in the depression by living among them. You have to admire his commitment and there was some truth in his message but he was certainly always politically motivated (George Orwell aka Eric Arthur Blair was an old school Socialist) - but as to whether you'll enjoy these novels is a matter of taste - one for the socio-political realists among you. Not big on laughs!

Pol says

Animal Farm (13 Jan 2017)

Short, simple, gets the message across well.

1984 (29 - 30 Jul 2018)

Provisional thoughts

A tad less philosophical than Huxley, a lot more bleak and forlorn. Actually, perhaps it wouldn't be right to compare them in a slap-dash fashion as everyone is bound to do. Different times, different pressures, different minds, &c.

Keep the Aspidistra Flying (30 Jul - 4 Aug 2018)

Reads like a rewriting of Gissing's *New Grub Street* with Reardon morphing into a hopelessly blinkered protagonist, waging war for the sake of what Lawrence might refer to as 'the mental life'.

The edition

Convenient stuff, this -- but the font size can be so damned small that it becomes impossible to read. I nearly resorted to using a magnifying glass for the Goldstein passages in *1984*. It's that bad.
