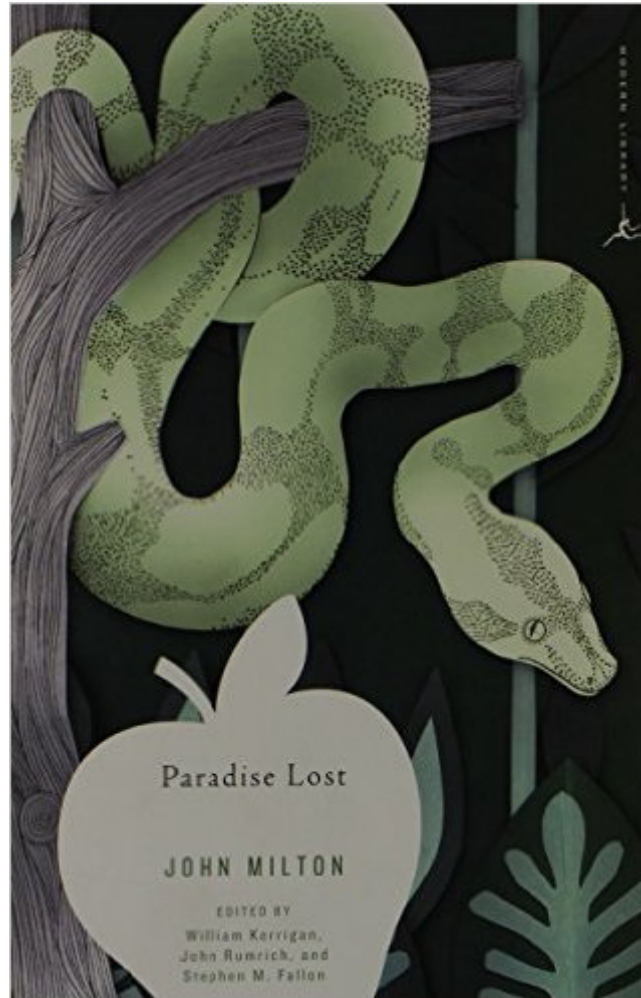


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Paradise Lost (Modern Library Classics)



Synopsis

Edited by William Kerrigan, John Rumrich, and Stephen M. Fallon John Milton's *Paradise Lost*, an epic poem on the clash between God and his fallen angel, Satan, is a profound meditation on fate, free will, and divinity, and one of the most beautiful works in world literature. Extracted from the Modern Library's highly acclaimed *The Complete Poetry and Essential Prose of John Milton*, this edition reflects up-to-date scholarship and includes a substantial Introduction, fresh commentary, and other features—annotations on Milton's classical allusions, a chronology of the writer's life, clean page layouts, and an index—that make it the definitive twenty-first-century presentation of John Milton's timeless signature work.

Book Information

Series: Modern Library Classics

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Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars— See all reviews— (515 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

Paradise Lost was not part of my core curriculum in science and mathematics. I was of course aware that scholars considered it a great work, a classic. But it seemed a bit daunting - long, difficult, dated, and possibly no longer relevant. A few years ago I made two fortunate decisions. I elected to read Milton's *Paradise Lost* and I bought the Norton Critical Edition (edited by Scott Elledge). I read and reread *Paradise Lost* over a period of three months as well as the 300 pages of the Norton critical commentary. I was stunned by the beauty and power of Milton. Why had I waited so long to even approach such a literary masterpiece? Make no mistake. I had been right in several ways. *Paradise Lost* is difficult, it is long, and full appreciation requires an understanding of the

historical and religious context. But *Paradise Lost* is a remarkable achievement. It explores questions regarding man and God that are as relevant today as in the 17th century. And the genius of Milton has never been surpassed. I found the Norton footnotes extremely helpful - definitions for rare or archaic words and expressions, explanations of the historical context, and links to the critical commentary section. The footnotes are at the page bottom, making them readily accessible. The Norton biographical, historical, and literary commentaries were fascinating in their own right. I may well as spent as many hours reading commentary as with *Paradise Lost* itself. John Milton led a remarkable life. His enthusiastic eulogy on Shakespeare was included in the second folio edition of Shakespeare in 1632. This was Milton's first public appearance as an author!

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