



## The Rape of the Lock and Other Poems (Signet Classics)

By Alexander Pope

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**The Rape of the Lock and Other Poems (Signet Classics)** By Alexander Pope

Presented here are many of Pope's principal works, including the delightful mock-epic, *The Rape of the Lock*, *Windsor Forest*, *Essay on Man*, *Eloïsa to Abelard*, *Essay on Criticism*, and his satirical masterpiece, *The Dunciad*. Together, they represent the writings of one of the Enlightenment's greatest poets.

Alexander Pope enjoyed in his lifetime a fame and fortune that few poets have received. Known for his brilliant epigrams, he was an uncompromising social critic and razor-sharp satirist of fashionable society's foibles. His poetry was characterized by a graceful mastery of the English language, a biting wit, and a moral alertness that ranged from contemptuous to compassionate to dryly humorous. Considered England's greatest living poet by the age of 25, Pope would be hailed by Lord Byron as "the greatest name in our Poetry."

**Includes an Introduction by Christopher Miller  
and an Afterword by Elliott Visconsi**

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### Editorial Review

#### About the Author

Alexander Pope was born in 1688 in London, England. His father, a linen merchant, moved his family to Binfield in Windsor Forest after the Glorious Revolution of 1688, where Pope received little schooling, educating himself largely through reading. At the age of twelve, Pope contracted a tubercular infection, never growing taller than four feet, six inches, and suffered from curvature of the spine and constant headaches. He came to public notice on the publication of "Pastorals" in Jacob Tonson's **Miscellany** (1709), **Essay on Criticism** (1711), and gained much notoriety and acclaim for **The Rape of the Lock** (1712). By 1713, Pope had befriended Jonathan Swift, John Gay, Thomas Parnell, and Dr. John Arbuthnot, and together they formed the "Scriblerus Club" which indirectly contributed to such works as Swift's **Gulliver's Travels** and Pope's own **Dunciad** (1728), as well as the **Memoirs of Martinus Scriblerus** (1741). Pope's translation of the **Iliad** (1715-1720) and the **Odyssey** (1725-1726) earned him financial success, as well as critical praise. Working jointly with Swift, they published **Miscellanies** (1727-1732), an obvious parody of writers, which was ill received. Pope answered again with a personal satire, the famous **Dunciad**. He attempted a survey of human nature, completing **Essay on Man** (1733), and **Mortal Essays** both reminiscent of the satire for which Pope had become so famous. **Imitations of Horace** (1733-1738) a parody of the contemporary social and political scene, and his "pirated" letters, which he had devised to be published, would be his last works. Pope died in 1744 and was buried in Twickenham Church. He left the epic verse **Brutus** incomplete.

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