

## Confessions Of An English Opium Eater Thomas De Quincey

"I here present you, courteous reader, with the record of a remarkable period in my life: according to my application of it, I trust that it will prove not merely an interesting record, but in a considerable degree useful and instructive." So begins "The Confessions of an English Opium-Eater." Originally published in two parts in the "London Magazine" in 1821, it is a gripping account of one Englishman's addiction to opium. Thomas De Quincey details the effects of his opium use and in so doing warns the reader of the dangers and terrors of serious drug addiction.

The Companion to Romanticism is a major introductory survey from an international galaxy of scholars writing new pieces, specifically for a student readership, under the editorship of Duncan Wu.

Confessions of an English Opium-Eater is an autobiographical account written by Thomas De Quincey, about his laudanum addiction and its effect on his life. The Confessions was "the first major work De Quincey published and the one which won him fame almost overnight.

Differentiated book- It has a historical context with research of the time-Confessions of an English Opium-Eater (1821) is an autobiographical account written by Thomas De Quincey about his addiction to laudanum and its effect on his life. The Confessions was "the first great work published by De Quincey and the one that earned him fame almost overnight ..."

First published anonymously in September and October 1821 in the London Magazine, the Confessions It was released as a book in 1822, and again in 1856, in an edition reviewed by De Quincey. As originally published, De Quincey's account was organized in two parts: Part I begins with a notice "To the reader", to establish the narrative framework:

"Here I present you, polite reader, with the record of a remarkable period in my life ... ", followed by the substance of Part I, Preliminary Confessions, dedicated to the author's childhood and youth, and focused on the emotional and psychological factors that underlie subsequent experiences with opium, especially the period in his teens that De Quincey spent as a homeless fugitive on Oxford Street in London in 1802 and 1803. Part II is divided into several sections: A relatively brief introduction and a connecting passage, followed by The Pleasures of Opium, which analyzes the early and largely positive phase of the author's experience with the drug, from 1804 to 1812; Introduction to the Dolores del Opio, which offers a second installment of autobiography, taking De Quincey from youth to maturity.

You won't be able to put down this gripping first-hand account of opium addiction that shocked England after its initial publication in 1821. Thomas De Quincy was a renowned author and intellectual who fell prey to a laudanum addiction as a young man, and who later recounted his experiences in excruciating detail in a series of anonymously published magazine serials. This important early work provides a fascinating glimpse into the processes of drug addiction.

Title: Confessions of an English Opium-Eater Author: Thomas De Quincey Language: English

A work, published in 1821, in which the author describes a number of experiences during his boyhood which he implies laid the foundations for his later life of helpless drug addiction. Full of psychological insight and descriptive writing, it consists of his remarkable account of the pleasures and pains of opium.

This vintage book comprises 'Confessions of an English Opium-Eater'; an autobiographical account of Thomas De Quincey's opium addiction and the effect that it had on his life. This text was the first major book that De Quincey published, and one that made him famous in a very short period of time. De Quincey's Confessions assumed an authoritative influence on the public, as well as scientific opinion of opium for several generations. It went through almost innumerable editions and revisions despite the fact that he was generally criticised for putting too much emphasis on the positive aspects of opium intoxication. Thomas Penson De Quincey (1785 – 1859) was an English essayist who was most renowned for writing this book. We are republishing this vintage work now in an affordable, modern edition complete with a new prefatory biography of the author.

Confessions of an English Opium-Eater and Other Writings Penguin

In this selection for Penguin's Great Ideas series, De Quincey discusses his opium addiction, tells how it began, and reveals how his life progressed while under the spell of this habit.

Confessions of an English Opium-Eater (1821) is an autobiographical account written by Thomas De Quincey, about his laudanum (opium and alcohol) addiction and its effect on his life. The Confessions was "the first major work De Quincey published and the one which won him fame almost overnight. First published anonymously in September and October 1821 in the London Magazine, the Confessions was released in book form in 1822, and again in 1856, in an edition revised by De Quincey. As originally published, De Quincey's account was organized into two parts: Part I begins with a notice "To the Reader," to establish the narrative frame: "I here present you, courteous reader, with the record of a remarkable period in my life...." It is followed by the substance of Part I, Preliminary Confessions, devoted to the author's childhood and youth, and concentrated upon the emotional and psychological factors that underlay the later opium experiences - especially the period in his late teens that de Quincey spent as a homeless runaway in Oxford Street in London in 1802 and 1803. Part II is split into several sections: A relatively brief introduction and connecting passage, followed by The Pleasures of Opium, which discusses the early and largely positive phase of the author's experience with the drug, from 1804 until 1812; Introduction to the Pains of Opium, which delivers a second installment of autobiography, taking De Quincey from youth to maturity; and The Pains of Opium, which recounts the extreme of the author's opium experience (up to that time), with insomnia, nightmares, frightening visions, and difficult physical symptoms. Another "Notice to the Reader" attempts to clarify the chronology of the whole. The cover of Thomas De Quincey's book, Confessions of an Opium Eater. This version was published by the Mershon Company in 1898. Though De Quincey was later criticized for giving too much attention to the pleasure of opium and not enough to the harsh negatives of addiction, The Pains of Opium is in fact significantly longer than The Pleasures. However, even when trying to convey darker truths, De Quincey's language can seem seduced by the compelling nature of the opium experience: "The sense of space, and

in the end, the sense of time, were both powerfully affected. Buildings, landscapes, &c. were exhibited in proportions so vast as the bodily eye is not fitted to conceive. Space swelled, and was amplified to an extent of unutterable infinity. This, however, did not disturb me so much as the vast expansion of time; I sometimes seemed to have lived for 70 or 100 years in one night; nay, sometimes had feelings representative of a millennium passed in that time, or, however, of a duration far beyond the limits of any human experience.

100 Best Non Fiction Books has its origins in the recent 2 year-long Observer serial which every week featured a work of non fiction). It is also a companion volume to McCrum's very successful 100 Best Novels published by Galileo in 2015. The list of books starts in 1611 with the King James Bible and ends in 2014 with Elizabeth Kolbert's *The Sixth Extinction*. And in between, on this extraordinary voyage through the written treasures of our culture we meet Pepys' Diaries, Charles Darwin's *The Origin of Species*, Stephen Hawking's *A Brief History of Time* and a whole host of additional works. Thomas De Quincey (1785-1859) is considered one of the most important English prose writers of the early-19th century. This is the first part of a 21-volume set presenting De Quincey's work, also including previously unpublished material. This work has been selected by scholars as being culturally important and is part of the knowledge base of civilization as we know it. This work is in the public domain in the United States of America, and possibly other nations. Within the United States, you may freely copy and distribute this work, as no entity (individual or corporate) has a copyright on the body of the work. Scholars believe, and we concur, that this work is important enough to be preserved, reproduced, and made generally available to the public. To ensure a quality reading experience, this work has been proofread and republished using a format that seamlessly blends the original graphical elements with text in an easy-to-read typeface. We appreciate your support of the preservation process, and thank you for being an important part of keeping this knowledge alive and relevant.

This autobiography, first published in 1821, describes the author's addiction to laudanum (opium and alcohol) and its effect on his life. He talks about his childhood and the underlying psychological factors that led to his opium abuse. He had spent his late teenage years as a runaway living on the streets of London. He describes the early pleasures of opium and then how his experiences devolved into the more extreme side effects such as insomnia, hallucinations and physical symptoms.

*Confessions of an English Opium-Eater* is an account of the early life and opium addiction of Thomas De Quincey, in prose which is by turns witty, conversational, and nightmarish. 'On the Knocking at the Gate in Macbeth' offers both a small masterpiece of Shakespearian interpretation and a provocative statement of De Quincey's personal aesthetic of contrast and counterpoint. *Suspiria de Profundis* blends autobiography and philosophical speculation into a series of dazzling prose-poems which explore the mysteries of time, memory, and suffering. 'The English Mail-Coach' develops a richly apocalyptic vision which sets nineteenth-century England's political and imperial grandeur against the suffering and loss of innocence which it entails. This selection presents De Quincey's major works in their original uncut and unrevised versions, which in some cases have not been available for many years.

Definitive life of the author of *CONFESSIONS OF AN ENGLISH OPIUM-EATER*, journalist, political commentator and biographer. Thomas De Quincey's friendships with leading poets and men of letters in the Romantic and Victorian periods - including William Wordsworth, Samuel Taylor Coleridge and Thomas Carlyle - have long placed him at the centre of 19th-century literary studies. De Quincey also stands at the meeting point in the culture wars between Edinburgh and London; between high art and popular taste; and between the devotees of the Romantic imagination and those of hack journalism. His writing was a tremendous influence on Edgar Allan Poe, Charles Dickens, William Burroughs and Peter Ackroyd. De Quincey is a fascinating (and topical) figure for other reasons too: a self-mythologizing autobiographer whose attitudes to drug-induced creativity and addiction strike highly resonant chords for a contemporary readership. Robert Morrison's biography passionately argues for the critical importance and enduring value of this neglected essayist, critic and biographer.

*Thomas De Quincey: The Prose of Vision* is the first full-length critical study of De Quincey's imaginative writings. Considering these writings as a 'prose of vision' transcending their origins in magazine journalism, the author stresses their relationship to the Romantic traditions of imaginative vision and inward quest. He traces continuing themes and their transformations throughout De Quincey's career, and he offers sustained critical readings of De Quincey's major works. Professor De Luca discusses, in chronological sequence, the original version of *Confessions of an English Opium-Eater*, in which De Quincey traces his passage from innocence to experience; Gothic tales and essays on murder, which reveal a fascination with the concept of power; and the major works of De Quincey's later years, including *Suspiria de Profundis*, *The English Mail-Coach*, and the revised *Confessions*, which show the richest development of his interest in vision and in self-exploration. The book concludes with a discussion of the equivocal implications in De Quincey's three late major works and relates these implications to the equivocal tendencies in the Romantic tradition itself – its uneasy yearning for transcendence and its courageous commitment to the flow of ordinary experience. This study, which makes a significant contribution to an understanding of De Quincey's works, will be of particular interest to students of Romanticism.

Famed for his autobiographical *Confessions of an English Opium Eater*, De Quincey extended his sensational accounts of drug addiction with the brief essays of *Suspiria de Profundis* ("Sighs from the Depths").

From bestselling thriller author David Morrell comes a brooding Thomas De Quincey short story about the coldest of deaths and their heartbreaking aftermath. Thomas De Quincey -- the central character of Morrell's acclaimed Victorian mysteries, *Murder as a Fine Art* and *Inspector of the Dead* -- was one of the most notorious and brilliant literary personalities of the 1800s. His infamous *Confessions of an English Opium-Eater* made history as the first book about drug dependency. He invented the word "subconscious" and anticipated Freud's psychoanalytic theories by more than a half century. His blood-soaked essays and stories influenced Edgar Allan Poe, who in turn inspired Sir Arthur Conan Doyle to create Sherlock Holmes. But at the core of his literary success lies a terrible tragedy. In this special-edition novella, based on real-life events, Morrell shares De Quincey's story of a horrific snowstorm in which a mother and father died and their six children were trapped in the mountains of England's Lake District. Even more gripping is what happened after. This is the true tale of how Thomas De Quincey became the Opium-Eater, brought to life by award-winning storyteller David Morrell. An afterword contains numerous photographs of the dramatic locations

in the story.

**NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER** A renowned authority on the secret world of opium recounts his descent into ruinous obsession with one of the world's oldest and most seductive drugs, in this harrowing memoir of addiction and recovery. A natural-born collector with a nose for exotic adventure, San Diego-born Steven Martin followed his bliss to Southeast Asia, where he found work as a freelance journalist. While researching an article about the vanishing culture of opium smoking, he was inspired to begin collecting rare nineteenth-century opium-smoking equipment. Over time, he amassed a valuable assortment of exquisite pipes, antique lamps, and other opium-related accessories—and began putting it all to use by smoking an extremely potent form of the drug called chandu. But what started out as recreational use grew into a thirty-pipe-a-day habit that consumed Martin's every waking hour, left him incapable of work, and exacted a frightful physical and financial toll. In passages that will send a chill up the spine of anyone who has ever lived in the shadow of substance abuse, Martin chronicles his efforts to control and then conquer his addiction—from quitting cold turkey to taking “the cure” at a Buddhist monastery in the Thai countryside. At once a powerful personal story and a fascinating historical survey, *Opium Fiend* brims with anecdotes and lore surrounding the drug that some have called the methamphetamine of the nineteenth-century. It recalls the heyday of opium smoking in the United States and Europe and takes us inside the befogged opium dens of China, Thailand, Vietnam, and Laos. The drug's beguiling effects are described in vivid detail—as are the excruciating pains of withdrawal—and there are intoxicating tales of pipes shared with an eclectic collection of opium aficionados, from Dutch dilettantes to hard-core addicts to world-weary foreign correspondents. A compelling tale of one man's transformation from respected scholar to hapless drug slave, *Opium Fiend* puts us under opium's spell alongside its protagonist, allowing contemporary readers to experience anew the insidious allure of a diabolical vice that the world has all but forgotten.

This vintage book contains Thomas De Quincey's 1821 autobiographic account, "Confessions of an English Opium-Eater". Within this volume, De Quincey describes his addiction to opium and explains, in great detail, the effects that it had on him and his life. It was his first major work, and one that brought him fame almost overnight. Thomas Penson De Quincey (1785 - 1859) was a seminal English essayist. Many antiquarian books like this are increasingly rare and expensive, and it is with this in mind that we are republishing this book now in an affordable, modern, and high-quality edition. It comes complete with a specially commissioned new biography of the author.

The first literary addiction memoir, featuring the autobiographical *Suspiria de Profundis*, the inspiration for the 2018 horror film *Suspiria*, starring Dakota Johnson and Tilda Swinton and directed by Luca Guadagnino In this remarkable autobiography, Thomas De Quincey hauntingly describes the surreal visions and hallucinatory nocturnal wanderings he took through London—and the nightmares, despair, and paranoia to which he became prey—under the influence of the then-legal painkiller laudanum. Forging a link between artistic self-expression and addiction, *Confessions of an English Opium-Eater and Other Writings* seamlessly weaves the effects of drugs and the nature of dreams, memory, and imagination. First published in 1821, it paved the way for later generations of literary drug users, from Baudelaire to Burroughs, and anticipated psychoanalysis with its insights into the subconscious. This edition is based on the original serial version of 1821, and reproduces two “sequels”: *Suspiria de Profundis* (1845) and *The English Mail-Coach* (1849). It also includes a critical introduction discussing the romantic figure of the addict and the tradition of confessional literature, and an appendix on opium in the nineteenth century. For more than seventy years, Penguin has been the leading publisher of classic literature in the English-speaking world. With more than 1,800 titles, Penguin Classics represents a global bookshelf of the best works throughout history and across genres and disciplines. Readers trust the series to provide authoritative texts enhanced by introductions and notes by distinguished scholars and contemporary authors, as well as up-to-date translations by award-winning translators.

National Book Critics Circle Award, Biographers International Organization Plutarch Award and Los Angeles Times Book Prize Finalist New York Times Book Review, Times Literary Supplement and The Guardian Best Books of 2016 Thomas De Quincey was an obsessive. He was obsessed with Wordsworth and Coleridge, whose Lyrical Ballads provided the script to his life, and by the idea of sudden death. Running away from school to pursue the two poets, De Quincey insinuated himself into their world. Basing his sensibility on Wordsworth's and his character on Coleridge's, he forged a triangle of unusual psychological complexity. Aged twenty-four, De Quincey replaced Wordsworth as the tenant of Dove Cottage, the poet's former residence in Grasmere. In this idyllic spot he followed the reports of the notorious Ratcliffe Highway murders of 1811, when two families, including a baby, were butchered in their own homes. In his opium-soaked imagination the murderer became a poet while the poet became a murderer. Embedded in *On Murder as One of the Fine Arts*, De Quincey's brilliant series of essays, Frances Wilson finds the startling story of his relationships with Wordsworth and Coleridge. Opium was the making of De Quincey, allowing him to dissolve self-conflict, eliminate self-recrimination, and divest himself of guilt. Opium also allowed him to write, and under the pseudonym “The Opium-Eater” De Quincey emerged as the strangest and most original journalist of his age. His influence has been considerable. Poe became his double; Dostoevsky went into exile with *Confessions of an English Opium-Eater* in his pocket; and Charles Dickens, Oscar Wilde, George Orwell, Alfred Hitchcock, and Vladimir Nabokov were all De Quincey devotees. There have been other biographies of Thomas De Quincey, but *Guilty Thing* is the first to be animated by the spirit of De Quincey himself. Following the growth of his obsessions from seed to full flowering and tracing the ways they intertwined, Frances Wilson finds the master key to De Quincey's vast Piranesian mind. Unraveling a tale of hero worship and revenge, *Guilty Thing* brings the last of the Romantics roaring back to life and firmly establishes Wilson as one of our foremost contemporary biographers.

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