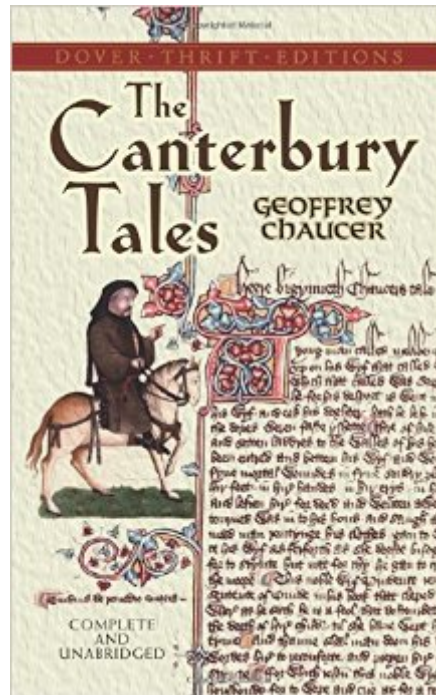


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The Canterbury Tales (Dover Thrift Editions)



Synopsis

A group of pilgrims bound for Canterbury Cathedral agree to pass the weary miles by taking turns at storytelling. The travelers — noble, coarse, jolly, and pious — offer a vibrant portrait of fourteenth-century English life. Their narratives form English literature's greatest collection of chivalric romances, bawdy tales, fables, legends, and other stories. The Canterbury Tales reflects a society in transition, as a middle class began to emerge from England's feudal system. Craftsmen and laborers ride side by side with the gentry on the road to the shrine of St. Thomas Æ Becket, and their discussions and arguments about ethical issues mirror their changing world. The pilgrims' conversations and stories also reveal their individual personalities, and Chaucer's vivid, realistic characterizations assured the Tales an instant and enduring success. Each pilgrim's story can be read separately and appreciated in its own right; all appear here in a lucid translation into modern English verse by J. U. Nicolson.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I want to correct an earlier reviewer. Chaucer wrote "The Canterbury Tales" in Middle English, not Old English. The King James Bible is written in Modern English. Thanks as always to Dover for publishing this inexpensive and unabridged version (yes, in Modern English) of Chaucer's Tales. Unabridged versions have been hard to find at any price.

Excellent, highly readable translation into modern poetry. Aside from the quality of the translation and the wonderful period illustrations, the paper is heavy stock meant for a lifetime of re-reading. I'm very pleased to own this edition.

While you claim to have read it in "old English" in school, you most likely were reading an updated version as well. The original was in MIDDLE ENGLISH not Old English. And looks a little something like this... Heere bigynneth the knyghtes tale. Whilom, as olde stories tellen us, Ther was a duc that highte Theseus; Of Atthenes he was lord and governour, That gretter was ther noon under the sonne. Ful many a riche contree hadde he wonne, What with his wysdom and his chivalrie; Very little like your "old English" of the KJV Bible...

A very enjoyable read. Here is the audible book

version:<http://www.audible.com/pd/Classics/The-Canterbury-Tales-Blackstone-Audiobook/B002V51ZHW>

I had no idea that this was not the original text, but a translation from old English to new. I read the old English in high school and didn't have a problem with it, perhaps because I was used to the King James bible. I certainly am not going to read this translation and will put it up for sale. I really enjoyed the original text and prefer to read that.

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