For over two centuries we have been at the forefront of bookselling. During that time we have seen the publication of many wonderful novels; to celebrate this and take delight in our own history, we are proud to present our ‘Favourite Novels of the Past 200 Years’.

The more eagle-eyed amongst you will notice that there is also a play and a selection of children’s stories: these are books we couldn’t be without.

Within this booklet you will find the books that, after great deliberation, we selected as our top one hundred; they are listed in chronological order.

As you can imagine, there has been much discussion amongst the booksellers at Hatchards as to which is the best book. We would like you to choose for us; voting forms are available within the shop. Please let us have your choice by 30th September 2015.

Do enjoy our selection, have fun choosing your favourite title and please don’t argue too much.
FICTION

**EMMA (1815)**  
Jane Austen  
’I am going to take a heroine whom no one but myself will much like’, said Austen about her protagonist. Charming, radical, and this year celebrating its bicentenary, *Emma* richly deserves its place among the classics of English literature.

**FRANKENSTEIN (1818)**  
Mary Shelley  
Our modern interpretation of Frankenstein’s monster is far removed from Mary Shelley’s original gothic tale. It now represents the unnatural and fearsome, but it is the devastating limits of human creativity and the human qualities of fear, loneliness and rejection that Shelley explored.

**JANE EYRE (1847)**  
Charlotte Brontë  
Suicide, madness, passion and morality form a heady mix in this story of an orphan who rises above adversity to the position of governess in a gloomy and mysterious manor house. There she meets the enigmatic Mr. Rochester; sparks begin to fly and events take a further turn toward the gothic.

**WUTHERING HEIGHTS (1847)**  
Emily Brontë  
*Wuthering Heights* is a blustery, tempestuous exploration of love and revenge. Heathcliff and Catherine are doomed from the start, as are the younger Catherine and Linton, a generation later. That this should be Emily’s only novel is as much a tragedy as it is a triumph.

**THE WARDEN (1855)**  
Anthony Trollope  
The first of Trollope’s Barsetshire *Chronicles*, *The Warden* introduces us to the delightful world of Septimus Harding and Archdeacon Grantly. The gentle life of the cathedral close is disturbed by John Bold, an idealistic and zealous young man, and a whirl of accusations and recriminations follow.

**MADAME BOVARY (1857)**  
Gustave Flaubert  
Zut alors! Is there a better debut novel than *Madame Bovary*? Flaubert’s story is one of infidelity, lost love and living beyond one’s means, with Emma Bovary as a compelling heroine who strives to turn her humdrum life into a romantic odyssey.
A TALE OF TWO CITIES (1859)
Charles Dickens
Set in the midst of the French Revolution, this masterpiece tells the story of two opposing men - Charles Darnay, an exiled French aristocrat, and Sydney Carton, a brilliant English lawyer – who become entwined through their love for Lucie Manette. Throughout, the guillotine casts a shadow over the bloodstained streets of Paris.

‘It is a far, far better thing that I do, then I have ever done; it is a far, far better rest that I go to than I have ever known’
CHARLES DICKENS, A TALE OF TWO CITIES

MIDDLEMARCH (1872)
George Eliot
Virginia Woolf described Middlemarch as ‘one of the few English novels written for grown-up people’. With several interlocking narrative strands, multiple plots and a multitude of characters, the novel addresses issues including political reform, religion, the status of women, and the nature of marriage, but remains an unforgettable good read.

ANNA KARENINA (1877)
Leo Tolstoy
Legend has it that Tolstoy began writing a cautionary tale about adultery and ended up falling in love with his heroine - as we all do.
FICTION

THE BROTHERS KARMAZOV (1880)
Fyodor Dostoevsky
Dense, dark and disturbing, Dostoevsky’s final novel is one of the finest ever written. Do not be discouraged by its size; it is well worth the effort if only for its descriptions of pre-revolutionary Russia.

THE PORTRAIT OF A LADY (1881)
Henry James
Isabel, the spirited American heiress confronting her destiny, is one of literature’s great heroines. With a measure of psychological complexity and subtlety, James depicts the battle between the Old and New World, as the innocent abroad is ensnared in a marriage apparently of her own choosing.

The Royal Society of Literature, now based in Somerset House, London, held its first meetings in the back room of Hatchards. Thomas Hardy and Henry James are both past fellows.

THE MAYOR OF CASTERBRIDGE (1886)
Thomas Hardy
This Wessex novel tells the story of Michael Henchard, poor hay-trusser, but eventual Mayor of Casterbridge. The discarding of his wife and child at the hiring fair is one of the great scenes of English writing. Tragic, utterly compelling and beautifully written, this book has been a classic of Hatchards literature department since its publication.

THREE MEN IN A BOAT (1889)
Jerome K. Jerome
Based on a real trip that Jerome, his two friends and his dog took on the Thames, this book hilariously recounts their misadventures. Their jolly outing is a recuperation from many ailments (almost every disease known to mankind except housemaid’s knee), but the trip is thwarted by an unopenable tin of pineapple and, that bane of the Thames: steam launches.

THE DIARY OF A NOBODY (1892)
George & Weedon Grossmith
The Grosssmiths’ marvellous spoof diary tells the story of Mr Pooter, clerk, of Holloway, North London, who is definitely not a ‘somebody’ but believes his life to be as interesting as anyone else’s. The irony and wit of the writing makes it one of the great comic novels, vastly influential, from Monty Python to Adrian Mole.
Wilde visited Hatchards on the day before the first production of *The Importance of Being Earnest*. On this particular day he and Lord Alfred Douglas bought a copy of Aristotle’s *Poetics*. The main table on the ground floor of Hatchards is known as Oscar’s table, as he signed many copies of his books upon it over one hundred years ago.

**THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST (1895)**

Oscar Wilde

Wilde has been close to the heart of Hatchards since he was an account holder in the 1890’s; *The Importance of Being Earnest* had its first night around the corner in St James’. The archetypal comedy of manners, it has many of his most famous quips, and yet underneath the wit is a coruscating satire of Victorian values and the closed society that would soon cause the author’s downfall.

After Wilde’s imprisonment, his wife, taking up the name Constance Holland, continued her correspondence with Arthur Humphreys, then manager of Hatchards, with surviving examples attesting to the warm friendship between the pair.
FICTION

THE TIME MACHINE (1895)
H. G. Wells
The Time Machine is one of the most imaginative works about time travel. At one hundred and twenty years old, it is as fresh, interesting and just plain exciting as it ever was, and probably still will be in 802,701 AD. Unless the Morlocks get hold of it ....

HEART OF DARKNESS (1899)
Joseph Conrad
Conrad was a sea captain who spent several years on a steamer on the Congo. His real-life experiences served him well as a novelist, as he sought to explore the dark realities of colonialism and the evil that lies within the hearts of so many.

BUDDENROOKS (1901)
Thomas Mann
Mann deservedly won the Nobel Prize for an outstanding body of work, but mainly for this novel – the story of a 19th century German merchant dynasty on the wane. We follow the fortunes of four generations of the Buddenbrooks family from 1835 to 1877.

THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES (1902)
Arthur Conan Doyle
The greatest and best-known of the Holmesian canon, a milestone in crime fiction. Gripping and action-packed, this is a novel that has rightfully been revered for over a century, and no doubt will be for centuries to come.

THE WAY BY SWANN (1913)
Marcel Proust
Forget the madeleines and don’t worry about the length. In Search of Lost Time is an enthralling story of love and loss, memory and the passing of time, and life in a France long-vanished. Read The Way by Swann and be swept into this wonderful world.

SONS AND LOVERS (1913)
D.H. Lawrence
Not as famous – or infamous – as Lady Chatterley’s Lover, Sons & Lovers is a highly autobiographical Bildungsroman. It is, perhaps, the novel that best captures Lawrence’s own peculiar spirit, and is arguably the most enjoyable book he wrote.
**OF HUMAN BONDAGE (1915)**
**W. Somerset Maugham**

The most autobiographical of Maugham’s novels. Philip Carey’s thwarted ambition to live as an artist degenerates into a grim life of toll in a darkly painted London. His tortured relationship with Mildred is a tour de force of bleakness.

---

**THE AGE OF INNOCENCE (1920)**
**Edith Wharton**

With this novel Edith Wharton became the first woman to win the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction. It splendidly depicts New York’s high society in the late 19th century. Passion and love are tightly constrained by the pressures and rigidity of the milieu in which the protagonists exist.

---

**ULYSSES (1922)**
**James Joyce**

Ulysses demands much from the reader, but repays the patient and the intrepid with a vast and unsurpassed linguistic tapestry. In the wholly unsensational account of a day in the life of one Dubliner, Joyce created, in the words of T.S Eliot, ‘a book to which we are all indebted, and from which none of us can escape’.
FICTION

A PASSAGE TO INDIA (1924)
E. M. Forster
When two British women in India take on a local doctor to show them life outside the confines of the colonial settlement, a trip to the caves leaves the doctor embroiled in scandal with both the British and their Indian subjects. There is no better exposition of the tensions of imperial power in the Raj.

THE GREAT GATSBY (1925)
F. Scott Fitzgerald
At the centre of this profound novel is the enigmatic Jay Gatsby, a man whose role is to observe the delirious and frenzied caperings of the Bright Young Things of America in the roaring Twenties. A classic annihilation of the American Dream.

THE TRIAL (1925)
Franz Kafka
Chilling, absurd and with a nightmarish quality, this is the story of Josef K.’s sudden arrest and subsequent trial. A critique of the faceless and bloated bureaucracy of Kafka’s time, it is sure to evoke vivid and unsettling comparisons with today’s world.

MRS DALLOWAY (1925)
Virginia Woolf
‘Mrs Dalloway said she would buy the flowers herself.’ And with this most famous opening line we begin an elegant stream of consciousness, which depicts a day in the life of Clarissa Dalloway as she visits Hatchards and prepares for a party. A dark subplot runs alongside as the madness of shell-shocked Septimus Smith reaches its tragic climax.

THE MURDER OF ROGER ACKROYD (1926)
Agatha Christie
Hercule Poirot has retired to a quiet village in the English countryside, but soon becomes bored, and feels that his little grey cells are going to waste. Then his good friend Roger Ackroyd is murdered and he is drawn into solving the crime.

ALL QUIET ON THE WESTERN FRONT (1929)
Erich Maria Remarque
Remarque’s story of First World War trenches is delivered with painfully compelling simplicity and understanding, searing the lessons of wasted youth and tragedy irrevocably upon one’s conscience. Containing contrasting moments of happiness and escape, All Quiet on the Western Front lays out the full context of war and its effect on the people and countries swept up in it.
FICTION

LIGHT IN AUGUST (1932)
William Faulkner
Faulkner’s classic Southern Gothic novel is a tale of secrets, lies and betrayal in Mississippi between the wars. Told through the eyes of misfits Lena Grove and Joe Christmas, themes of race and class take centre stage as we move towards a devastating climax.

RADETSKY MARCH (1932)
Joseph Roth
Roth charts the lives of three generations of the Trotta family. Lieutenant Trotta saves the life of Emperor Franz Joseph I on the battlefield, who ennobles him in gratitude. This marks the high point of the family’s fortunes; their decline mirroring that of the Austro-Hungarian Empire itself.

GAUDY NIGHT (1935)
Dorothy L. Sayers
Charming, romantic and witty, with not very much crime, Gaudy Night is a classic of the golden age of British Crime Writing. Wimsey's inamorata, Harriet Vane, takes the lead in a tale of dark deeds at an Oxford College.

THE HOBBIT (1937)
J.R.R. Tolkien
‘In a hole in the ground there lived a hobbit.’ The legend of Tolkien’s Middle-Earth starts here. The Hobbit tells the tale of Bilbo Baggins and his involvement in a quest, along with an assortment of dwarves and a wizard, to steal back the treasure from within the Lonely Mountain and the clutches of Smaug the great dragon.

OF MICE AND MEN (1937)
John Steinbeck
We follow George Milton and Lennie Small searching for work in California during the Great Depression. Inspired by his own experience, Steinbeck captures their desperation, and powerfully and poignantly examines loneliness, fate and the loss of the American Dream.
There are moments, Jeeves, when one asks oneself
‘Do trousers matter?’
‘The mood will pass, sir.’

P.G. Wodehouse, The Code of the Woosters
REBECCA (1938)
Daphne Du Maurier

‘Last night I dreamt I went to Manderley again.’ So begins the story of the second Mrs de Winter, a young girl who marries after a whirlwind romance and finds herself the mistress of Manderley. Here she is undermined by the sinister Mrs Danvers and haunted by the seemingly ever-present ghost of Rebecca, the first Mrs de Winter.

‘If only there could be an invention that bottled up a memory, like a scent. And it never faded, and it never got stale. And then, when one wanted it, the bottle could be uncorked, and it would be like living the moment all over again.’

DAPHNE DU MAURIER, REBECCA

THE BIG SLEEP (1939)
Raymond Chandler

Chandler took Dashiell Hammett’s Sam Spade and added a literary twist to the hard-boiled wit of his own creation, Private Investigator Philip Marlowe. Take Marlowe’s investigations in Geiger’s Bookstore:

“Would you happen to have a Ben Hur 1860?”
‘A first edition?’
‘Third’ I said ‘With the erratum on page 116’
‘I’m afraid not – at the moment’
Her eyes studied me carefully. She knew as much about rare books as I knew about handling a flea circus.’

GOODBYE TO BERLIN (1939)
Christopher Isherwood

Witty, evocative, and imbued with a sincere energy, Christopher Isherwood’s novel recalls the lost world of Weimar Berlin in six vivid and charming portraits. Inspiring the film Cabaret, Goodbye to Berlin is a highly textured vision of a bright, permissive society and the men and women who inhabited it.

GOOD MORNING, MIDNIGHT (1939)
Jean Rhys

When first reviewed this was thought to be well-written, but excessively gloomy; this may be true, but ignores the fact that this is a truly unforgettable portrait of a woman caught in the grip of desperation and isolation. The disturbing picture is further intensified by the desperation and isolation of Rhys’ own life.
FICTION

THE OUTSIDER (1942)
Albert Camus
A novel that resonates with everybody at some point in their lives. Disconnection, alienation and the persecution of the individual who confronts the comforts of society. An existential masterpiece that shows the sadness and determination a person can have in pursuit of finding some truth in a life they do not feel they belong to.

BRIDESHEAD REVISITED (1945)
Evelyn Waugh
This contains perhaps the most famous depiction of life as a student at the University of Oxford: nostalgic, dissolute and humorous. Charles Ryder is swept up into the world of the aristocratic Marchmains, a family who proceed to influence his entire life. Probably account holders at Hatchards.

‘I should like to bury something precious in every place where I’ve been happy and then, when I’m old and ugly and miserable, I could come back and dig it up and remember.’
EVELYN WAUGH, BRIDESHEAD REVISITED

LOVE IN A COLD CLIMATE (1948)
Nancy Mitford
The family and friends Nancy knew while growing up form the basis of this comic tale. Characters such as Fanny and Polly glide across the page adding wit to every chapter but, like much of her work, it is also very human and moving. Bright young things abound in this incredibly funny story.

NINETEEN EIGHTY-FOUR (1949)
George Orwell
Orwell had a terrifying vision of a totalitarian future. The tale of Winston Smith working under a tyrannical regime has had such a profound and lasting impact on society that phrases and words such as ‘Big Brother’ and ‘Thoughtcrime’ have become embedded in popular culture.

‘He who controls the past, controls the future. He who controls the present, controls the past.’
GEORGE ORWELL, NINETEEN EIGHTY-FOUR
**A QUESTION OF UPBRINGING (1951)**
Anthony Powell

The first volume in *A Dance to the Music of Time*, this serves as an exemplar of all 12 volumes: wonderful characters, wonderful writing, unforgettable relationships. Don’t read it for fast paced action, but do read it for its extraordinary creation of a recognisable world.

**THE DAY OF THE TRIFFIDS (1951)**
John Wyndham

The streets of London empty as the Triffids hunt down the last bands of human survivors. Even in these days of ubiquitously lurching zombies in books and on television, and biohazards real and imagined in the media, *The Day of the Triffids* has lost none of its power.

**THE CATCHER IN THE RYE (1951)**
J.D. Salinger

Adolescent alienation has never been more honestly and piquantly described. Written in a revolutionary style, it inspired a huge number of imitators. Meet Holden Caulfield, the disaffected protagonist, as he struggles with the inevitable loss of those childhood qualities, innocence and honesty.

‘Always do sober what you said you’d do drunk. That will teach you to keep your mouth shut.’

**THE OLD MAN & THE SEA (1952)**
Ernest Hemingway

Hemingway’s much-lauded spare prose finds its apogee in this short masterpiece. One of the works that won him the Nobel Prize, it is an exquisite and profound fable of man’s struggle with the elements and life.

**THE ADVENTURES OF AUGIE MARCH (1953)**
Saul Bellow

For sheer freewheeling excitement few can quite match *The Adventures of Augie March*. The eponymous everyman helter-skelters his way through Great Depression North America, encountering a rich and diverse cast of characters. It captures the vastness, colour and contradictions of America at a time of immense change.
FICTION

CASINO ROYALE (1953)
Ian Fleming
The first of Fleming’s James Bond stories, Casino Royale finds our hero pitted against the card playing, double-dealing Le Chiffre, a French communist in the pay of the Russians. It sets the tone of thrill, suspense and drama we all expect from a Bond adventure.

LORD OF THE FLIES (1954)
William Golding
The savage, yet efficient, destruction of a paradise is told in Golding’s masterful and allegorical tale. Lord of the Flies may be the first opportunity many young adults have to face the uninhibited and unflattering reality of their own condition.

LUCKY JIM (1954)
Kingsley Amis
Kingsley Amis’s first novel has retained its sharpness, its fine sense of the absurdities of academia, its underdog spirit and its chippy attitude. Few novels since have skewered that particular form of English pretension so precisely, and fewer still have managed to be so consistently funny while doing so.

‘He thought how much he liked her and had in common with her, and how much she’d like and have in common with him if she only knew him.’
KINGSLEY AMIS, LUCKY JIM
THE TALENTED MR RIPLEY (1955)
Patricia Highsmith
We are introduced to Tom Ripley, literature's ultimate badboy psychopath. At first he is a young striver, newly arrived in the heady world of 1950's Manhattan, but soon he becomes obsessed with the moneyed world of a new friend, Dicky Greenleaf, and finds he is prepared to kill in order to get what he wants.

PNIN (1957)
Vladimir Nabokov
Timofey Pavlovich Pnin is a tweedy and absent-minded professor; yet in Nabokov's hand his story becomes far more than a comic pastiche of academic institutions. Rather it is a penetrating commentary on the romantically disenchanted civilisation which created such a character.

THE BELL (1958)
Iris Murdoch
A key theme in many of Iris Murdoch’s novels is love; The Bell concerns a wayward, flirtatious wife, her mismatched, dull husband and a myriad of characters in a religious community. Murdoch appears a light and easy read, but underneath she leads us to a deeper understanding of human nature and relationships.

THE TIN DRUM (1959)
Günter Grass
A truly bravura piece of writing, The Tin Drum does what all great art, irrespective of medium, should do: it enables us to see the world, and our place within it, from a fresh perspective. Life changing.

TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD (1960)
Harper Lee
Harper Lee’s only novel, at least until the release of Go Set a Watchman in 2015, is a classic tale of right and wrong, justice and injustice. It champions the finer attributes of humanity – kindness, forgiveness, tolerance and compassion – and, in the form of Atticus Finch, features a genuinely heroic embodiment of these ideals.

CATCH 22 (1961)
Joseph Heller
This classic (anti) war story is by turns absurd, satirical, maddening and moving. We follow the fortunes of Yossarian and his comrades – stationed on a fictional island in the Mediterranean – as they deal with war and its attendant bureaucracy. One of the few ‘great American novels’ that can make us laugh out loud.
‘It is well, when in difficulties, to say never a word, neither black nor white.
Speech is silver but silence is golden.’
MURIEL SPARK, THE PRIME OF MISS JEAN BRODIE

THE PRIME OF MISS JEAN BRODIE (1961)
Muriel Spark
The author enthrals us with her poetically light and ironic touch – just as Miss Brodie’s charges are fascinated and spell-bound by their impossibly glamorous, eccentric and ultimately disastrous teacher. The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie has become synonymous with the very ‘crème de la crème’ of British post-war literature.

THE MAN IN THE HIGH CASTLE (1962)
Philip K. Dick
Imagine a world in which Germany and Japan won the Second World War: Eastern America is controlled by the Germans, the west by the Japanese. In between is a buffer zone, in which hides a renegade novelist who suggests what it would have been like if the United States had won. The Nazis cannot let such a dangerous idea spread.

THE COLLECTOR (1963)
John Fowles
Frederick Clegg is a clerk who collects butterflies. Lowly and lonely, he is hopelessly in love with Miranda, a young art student. When he wins a large sum of money, he simply decides to add her to his collection. He can’t see anything wrong with his plan. The story is told by both sides, shocking in their differences.

THE BELL JAR (1963)
Sylvia Plath
The tale of Esther Greenwood’s emotional disintegration is an acute analysis of a malaise and haunting life in the 20th Century. Plath takes her ambitious young heroine on a one way trip down the interstices of her own psyche. Brilliant and disturbing.

‘If you expect nothing from anybody, you’re never disappointed.’
SYLVIA PLATH, THE BELL JAR
The story is set at the height of the Cold War, just after the Berlin Wall has gone up. Station Head, Alec Leamus, is asked to stay ‘in the cold’ for one more mission. Love, loyalty and betrayal complicate matters, putting Leamus in an impossible position.

‘Ever since I began writing, Hatchards was where it mattered. When The Spy Who Came In From The Cold started selling seriously, I stood unannounced and unrecognised in a corner of the shop, watching the process that the manager Peter Giddy later explained to me: “They look at it in the window, then they want to feel it, so they pick it up from the round table just inside the door.” Then they read the blurb and sometimes a bit of the first page, and - oh God! - sometimes the very end.’

JOHN LE CARRÉ

Richard Burton in the 1965 BAFTA award winning film adaptation of Le Carré’s ‘The Spy Who Came In From The Cold’.
FICTION

THE COMEDIANS (1966)
Graham Greene

The three comedians are Brown, an English hotel owner; Smith, an innocent American planning to set up a vegetarian centre, and Jones, a businessman and confidence trickster. They meet on a ship bound for Haiti, and their stories unfold against the backdrop of 'Papa Doc’s rule of suppression and terror.

Graham Greene was one of many authors who took up residence in the Albany, a prestigious set of bachelor apartments directly opposite Hatchards on Piccadilly. He and many other authors such as Lord Byron and Aldous Huxley were both residents and consequently regular customers at Hatchards.

Hatchards dedicated its main window to The Comedians on its publication in 1966, shown above in this photograph from the Hatchards archive.
ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF SOLITUDE (1967)
Gabriel García Márquez
This is the story of one family holding steadfast against the trials of civil war, illness and vendettas, until a truth is revealed from the pages of a hidden manuscript. Márquez’s magnificent novel is at once magical, mysterious and always wholeheartedly alive.

‘It is not true that people stop pursuing dreams because they grow old, they grow old because they stop pursuing dreams’
GABRIEL GARCIA MÁRQUEZ

2001: A SPACE ODYSSEY (1968)
Arthur C. Clarke
With his great scientific knowledge, inquisitive mind, and prophetic and rich imagination, Clarke paved the way for generations of other science-fiction writers. 2001 still stands tall in the genre, and its story strikes a deep chord of longing and loneliness in the human heart.

MIDNIGHT’S CHILDREN (1981)
Salman Rushdie
Here is the story of India given to us through one extraordinary boy. Rushdie’s use of metaphor, on the grandest scale, is exciting, mesmerising and beautiful. Revered as the Best of Booker and a magical realism benchmark, it is an emotional saga that will be remembered for years to come.

J. G. Ballard
This semi-autobiographical novel is essentially a story of survival. A young British boy, Jamie Graham (named after the author), lives with his parents in Shanghai. In the chaos after the attack on Pearl Harbour, he becomes separated from his parents and must sustain himself as best he can.

THE UNBEAREABLE LIGHTNESS OF BEING (1984)
Milan Kundera
Kundera’s magnificent work is a multi-faceted entity: a novel of ideas and emotion; a dissection of political discord and an exploration into the frailties of human sexual experience. It’s the type of book that stays with you. Frankly put: it’s a masterpiece.
FICTION

‘Perhaps there are other bits of my life that would take on content, take on shadow, if only I read more and thought less about money.’

MARTIN AMIS, MONEY

MONEY (1984)
Martin Amis
With Money, Martin Amis found the perfect subject matter to fit his inimitable style. Both hilarious and harrowing, the bacchanalian adventures of John Self – a man ‘addicted to the 20th century’ – are recounted by Amis with a certain rueful fascination.

FLAUBERT’S PARROT (1984)
Julian Barnes
Geoffrey Braithwaite, a retired doctor, finds, on a visit to France, two stuffed parrots, each purporting to be the one which sat on Flaubert’s desk. While trying to track down the authentic parrot Braithwaite is frequently sidetracked, giving the reader splendid insights into both his and Flaubert’s lives.

‘Books say: She did this because. Life says: She did this. Books are where things are explained to you; life is where things aren’t. I’m not surprised some people prefer books.’

JULIAN BARNES, FLAUBERT’S PARROT

THE HANDMAID’S TALE (1985)
Margaret Atwood
The plot of this stunning dystopian novel grapples with some of the great questions of society and human existence. Atwood’s playful use of language belies the complexity of the themes, and portrays an emotional rawness of breath-taking intensity.

BELOVED (1987)
Toni Morrison
Morrison’s haunting tale of a lost daughter, known only as Beloved, was inspired by the life of African-American slave Margaret Garner, and gave a voice to the millions of victims of the slave trade. Exploring family and the potential for healing against a vivid historical backdrop, it is one of the greatest works of African-American fiction.
Kazuo Ishiguro

Amidst the buzz of anticipation for Ishiguro’s first book in ten years - The Buried Giant, The Remains of the Day retains its timeless excellence. Narrated by the devoted butler Mr Stevens, this novel is set in the years leading up to the Second World War, and is concerned with issues of dignity, loyalty and politics.

REGENERATION (1991)
Pat Barker

Regeneration has a compelling cast of historical and fictional characters. The effects of war and the heroic attempts to use recently-developed psychological theories to alleviate the suffering of traumatized troops are poignantly handled. This is one of the great novels about the Great War.

A PLACE OF GREATER SAFETY (1992)
Hilary Mantel

Historical fact and narrative fiction merge seamlessly in this staggeringly exciting story about the French Revolution. Lesser known characters bring the novel to life and you will feel as though you are present, experiencing the events for yourself.

‘Perhaps it is indeed time I began to look at this whole matter of bantering more enthusiastically. After all, when one thinks about it, it is not such a foolish thing to indulge in - particularly if it is the case that in bantering lies the key to human warmth.’ KAZUO ISHIGURO, THE REMAINS OF THE DAY
FICTION

BIRDSONG (1993)
Sebastian Faulks
Mud, blood, damaged love, bullets, redemption of sorts – Birdsong is an iconic novel of war. We follow Wraysford, a young Englishman in France, from an illicit and passionate love affair right through the depravity of the trenches, and the subsequent impact on future generations.

THE HUMAN STAIN (2000)
Philip Roth
A commentary on race discrimination, domestic violence, and class segregation conducted through an incredible stylistic performance that most closely resembles a literary psychological thriller. The anger that bubbles in Roth’s characters is viciously felt.

ATONEMENT (2001)
Ian McEwan
The beauty of Atonement is its sweep through time and its sheer scope. A full and rich novel of subtle cause and devastating effect, it is also a masterful reflection on the absurdity and tragedy of war.

‘Hatchards are not only one of the most distinguished booksellers in the world and the oldest-established in London, their bookshop is one in which authors feel particularly at home. I make my way to Piccadilly in the safe knowledge that I shall receive a warm welcome from friends, be helped to find what I need, have the satisfaction of browsing in a shop with a remarkable range and variety of books, and know that I am in a proper bookshop.’

P.D. JAMES

ORIGINAL SIN (2003)
P.D. James
The ninth Inspector Dalgliesh mystery immerses him in the world of London publishing. The managing director of the city’s oldest publishing house, Peverell Press, is murdered, and it is clear the killer does not intend to stop at one victim. It is a little too close to home for our comfort.
CHILDREN’S

‘Why, sometimes I’ve believed as many as six impossible things before breakfast’
LEWIS CARROLL, ALICE IN WONDERLAND

ALICE IN WONDERLAND (1865)
Lewis Carroll
Celebrating its 150th anniversary in 2015, the literary nonsense in this story has always appealed to adults and children alike. In Wonderland Alice encounters a rabbit with a pocket watch, a blue caterpillar smoking a hookah, and is a guest at a very confusing tea-party. And this is all before she comes across the real lunacy of the Queen of Hearts.

AROUND THE WORLD IN EIGHTY DAYS (1873)
Jules Verne
An eccentric Englishman and his loyal French valet set out to travel all around the world in 80 days because of a bet. Verne’s world of new technological wonder and the thrilling pace of this race against time still fascinate and captivate readers.

TREASURE ISLAND (1883)
Robert Louis Stevenson
It is hard to find a more exciting tale of adventure on the high seas. Many years ago Captain Flint hid a vast stash of treasure on a desert island and the surviving members of his crew now want to find it. Their problem is that Jim Hawkins has the map. There is a splendid cast of characters, with the evil Blind Pugh, the properly ruthless pirate Long John Silver and young Jim Hawkins, a true hero.
Although it has been translated into 36 languages, Peter Rabbit was originally rejected by several publishers. Privately printed, it was sold exclusively at Hatchards. Beatrix Potter was thrilled about this and remained a lifelong friend of the shop. In the 1960’s Hatchards held an exhibition of her original artworks and manuscripts.

‘Once upon a time there were four little rabbits and their names were Flopsy, Mopsy, Cottontail and Peter.’

BEATRIX POTTER, 
THE TALE OF PETER RABBIT

Peter Rabbit, Beatrix Potter, 1902

THE TALE OF PETER RABBIT (1902)
Beatrix Potter
Peter Rabbit is a mischievous young rabbit who ventures into the garden of Mr. McGregor in search of scrumptious vegetables, and has a tricky time escaping back home. Twenty-two other equally delightful tales complete Potter’s wonderful series.
FIVE CHILDREN AND IT (1902)
E. Nesbit

‘Be careful what you wish for!’ is the message that can be found throughout Nesbit’s story. It follows a group of children who find a sand fairy who is able to grant them wishes, but these wishes rarely go to plan. A wholesome and humorous tale of adventure (or misadventure), magic and imagination.

THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS (1908)
Kenneth Grahame

The appeal of Kenneth Grahame’s classic is akin to a visit from a beloved old friend. Both a lyrical ode to a sylvan landscape and a droll observation of English manners, this is a genuine charmer: ever pertinent, ever witty, ever wise.

THE SECRET GARDEN (1911)
Frances Hodgson Burnett

When Mary Lennox comes to M insistence is a w hatever others to come to you.
You have to go to them sometimes.”
A.A. MILNE, WINNIE-THE-POOH
CHILDREN’S

FIVE ON A TREASURE ISLAND (1942)
Enid Blyton

Four children, a dog, a boat and an uninhabited island. What more could one want? Treasure, of course, and some baddies who are determined to get to it before the children. This is the first of twenty-one wonderful Famous Five adventures.

THE LITTLE PRINCE (1943)
Antoine de Saint-Exupéry

The Little Prince’s adventures, when he leaves his small planet, travels the universe and learns about life, appeal to everyone. Its poignant metaphors and symbols, its simple language and yet sophisticated style have become a thought-provoking parable of the human condition, without ever losing the candour and purity of a fairytale.

THE LION, THE WITCH AND THE WARDROBE (1950)
C.S. Lewis

‘Once there were four children whose names were Peter, Susan, Edmund and Lucy. This story is about something that happened to them when they were sent away from London during the war because of the air-raids.’ In a remote house in the country the adventures of the Pevensie children begin with an enormous wardrobe, a noble lion, an evil witch and a magical world called Narnia.

CHARLOTTE’S WEB (1952)
E.B. White

A wonderful story of a little girl, a pig and a spider who become the closest of friends, working together to save the pig’s bacon! It teaches us about friendship, life and death; it does not shy away from life’s harsh realities, but also fills the reader with incredible warmth and hope.

PADDINGTON (1958)
Michael Bond

‘Please look after this bear’ is something we would all willingly do, especially when the bear in question is Paddington. As it is, the Brown family come to the bear’s rescue, and it is they who benefit from Paddington’s unique version of helpfulness.
THE GHOST OF THOMAS KEMPE (1973)
Penelope Lively
A classic tale of ghostly goings on with bundles of humour and charm. Ten year old James and his family move into an old cottage, and it’s not long before strange events begin to occur: the banging of doors, the moving of objects. James is blamed, but in fact it is a tetchy and dictatorial 17th century sorcerer named Thomas Kempe.

DANNY THE CHAMPION OF THE WORLD (1975)
Roald Dahl
Danny and his father live in an old, but delightful, gipsy caravan behind their filling-station. Everything about their lives is lovely, apart from the rich and horrid Mr. Hazell, with his Rolls-Royce, his grand house and his posh parties. With Danny’s cunning plan involving raisins and sleepy pheasants they get their own back on him.

GOODNIGHT MISTER TOM (1981)
Michelle Magorian
Goodnight Mister Tom is a story that will pervade the life of its reader. Ever important, earnest in its simplicity, and an integral reminder of what may flourish in the care of kindness even in the bleakest of times. Life would be better if we could all have a Mister Tom looking out for us.

NORTHERN LIGHTS (1995)
Philip Pullman
With Northern Lights, Philip Pullman draws us into the wonderful world of the acclaimed His Dark Materials trilogy. The story centres around Lyra, a strong-willed and courageous twelve year old girl, one of our favourite heroines.

HARRY POTTER AND THE PHILOSOPHER’S STONE (1997)
J.K. Rowling
What a feeling to be so completely lost in a book that you cannot bear to put it down! This is how children and adults alike have felt on entering the magical world of Harry Potter: (Haven’t we all wondered what it would be like to attend Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry?)

PRIVATE PEACEFUL (2003)
Michael Morpurgo
Meet Thomas (Tommo) Peaceful. One night, from the trenches of World War One, he looks back at his life: his childhood, his brothers, Big Joe and Charlie, and sweet Molly, the love of his life. At dawn Charlie will be punished for cowardice. But was it cowardice - or rather courage, bravery, or even love?
Hatchards book subscriptions are a perfect gift for book lovers and make a wonderful treat for the bibliophile in your life. Let us know a little about your recipient’s interests and our specialists will hand-pick one appropriate book each month for a year, in either hardback or paperback form.

Each month’s book will be beautifully gift-wrapped and posted direct to the reader: in the United Kingdom or beyond.

A wonderful gift, delivered to your door:

Fiction Subscription  |  Hardback £275  |  Paperback £150 |
Non-Fiction Subscription  |  Hardback £350  |  Paperback £175 |
Mixed Subscription  |  Hardback £315  |  Paperback £165 |
Children’s Collection  |  £150 |
Expatriate’s Subscription  |  Hardback £450  |  Paperback £250 |
Artist’s Year  |  £500 |

All prices include gift-wrapping and delivery.

For more information on the Hatchards subscription service, email: subscriptions@hatchards.co.uk
Or ask in-store.