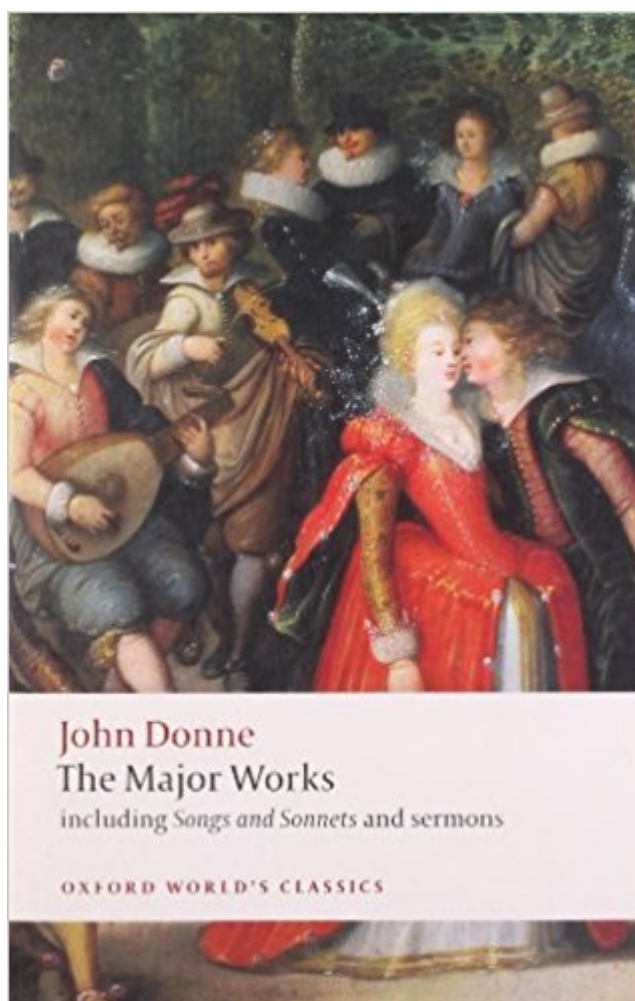


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# John Donne - The Major Works: Including Songs And Sonnets And Sermons (Oxford World's Classics)



## Synopsis

John Donne (1572-1631) is perhaps the most important poet of the seventeenth century, and has often been referred to as the founder of the metaphysical genre. His poetry is highly distinctive and individual, adopting a multitude of tones, images, forms, and personae. This collection of Donne's verse includes a wide selection from both his secular and divine poems, including such well-known poems as "Air and Angels," "The Flea," the "Holy Sonnets", and "The Progress of the Soul." The poems are provided with full Notes and a useful Introduction to Donne's life and poetry. About the Series: For over 100 years Oxford World's Classics has made available the broadest spectrum of literature from around the globe. Each affordable volume reflects Oxford's commitment to scholarship, providing the most accurate text plus a wealth of other valuable features, including expert introductions by leading authorities, voluminous notes to clarify the text, up-to-date bibliographies for further study, and much more.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

John Donne (1572-1631) was a Jacobean poet and preacher, the representative of the so-called metaphysical poets of the period, though the term itself came after his death. His works include sonnets, love poetry, religious poems, Latin translations, epigrams, elegies, songs, and sermons.

This is one of those poets that motorra (at least my mom, who is in her 70's loves from youth! I personally very much like the poetry, sonnets and poems with regard to God that are all included (I chuckled at a few of the names). Even I loved and wrote poetry, haiku and emotional poetry into my 30's - as I read some of the great poets, (Browning, Dickensin, etc.), I see my lack of the beauty and love, despair and even the ones about hate, (at times), and am in awe of the gifts they naturally were given to share with those whom were to be meant to enjoy them. Perhaps, our children would become more literate, happier, (with MUCH better use of the English language). Just a dream - I do this for my son who is in his 20's! Imaging if your child were to actually sit down by you, and then talk to you about a problem they are having that they "KNOW" they are the very first person in world to hAve this "problem," - you could then go to some of these poets who are really easily understood, review table of contents; and if you hare personally never e xperienced what they have gone through, there have been GREAT TRUE poets who have been sharing their pain. Happiness, fear, dismay, unloved...on and on! You could share the poem with them! Of course, you will want to make SURE you havd read and understood the prose and ultimate meaning for them to understand some of them) - but think of the REWARDS! Christians use the Bible! I use it too, but I have also used poetry and / I taught him the different genre's and forms and before computers, put a dictionary in front of us; I say we began reading it when he was 3! He began attempting and, I think successfully beginning his love of writing, not only poems, although they are usually his outlet. - oh, please remember that this author is excellent! I wish thry had taught some of his works in my younger days! - LAST thing - I promise! I just get so excited about helping children with emotions, showing them others have experienced (at THEIR age), some of the hard times, despair, loneliness, cruelty by other children / that poetry is a good place to start with your kids (there IS poetry for young children) - to start or help them with the need to be able to not only think they are alone with their problems, but that others kids their age (again, I say this!), and see they are not alone in what they are suffering, PLUS, if they are scared to share them with you, you are also teaching them the tool of getting pain out / abc you get the joy at their very young age of showing them your excitement about their writing and thank them for trusting you! Huge issue!are the ones

The Oxford edition of Donne's work is naturally fantastic! As a bonus, the book arrived a day early!  
Very pleased!

Wonderful poems; well read!

## Great poems

For anyone interested in entering through a single door into Donne's empire, this book is as good as any I can think of. You have his poems, selections of prose, sermons. In fine: cheap and very well edited.

This is outstanding reading -- the sort of voices (there are two readers) that one would like to imagine Donne himself might have had. My copy played immediately upon putting it in my machine. The engineers should be proud of their accomplishments. Arguably a good introduction to Donne, it should also provide hours of enjoyment to aficionados of the Master.

John Donne's poetry, if you have done an extensive reading of it, speaks volumes about cynicism, love, religion, duty, faith, craft and Jacobean times. And if you have read him extensively, you love him, simply put. However, I have an added level to my appreciation and enjoyment: one that I share with some. I teach his works to my intermediary English literature class. Before my students take this course, I can pretty much assume that they had never heard of Donne or only had read "The Flea" and maybe a Holy Sonnet. And I am usually right. It is a pleasure to watch them read one of his poems and its complex imagery--say, "A Valediction: Forbidding Mourning". They scratch their heads in puzzlement at first. But when I have them read it out loud, slowly, and as I explain each image as they go along, it is a joy to see the smiles of appreciation and the nods of understanding. When they "get it", they love it. The Oxford edition is the text I learned from and the text I have used for years. The quality of Oxford books is enduring. (My textbook from my student years--I believe Donne had just died back then--still has a solid spine.) The print is larger than other paperbacks and utilizes a classic font. And the introduction by John Carey, which has been part of this edition for decades, still retains its relevance. Carey's text is clear and accessible, and gives us a look at Donne, warts and all. Oxford has done well to keep this introduction.

John Donne wrote some of the most beautiful, intelligent, and passionate poetry in the English language! With some poets you get 1 or 2 of these qualities: with Donne you get all 3, and so I highly recommend his poetry to all lovers of poetry and English literature. The language is archaic and at times difficult, but that's also some of its beauty and charm. What's more noteworthy but less noticed than the oldness of the language is how fresh and alive it still seems and must have seemed in centuries past! While I love Donne's poetry especially because of his intelligent and

beautiful passion for God, even those without religious faith will appreciate the brilliance and glory of Donne's poetry. If you're able to keep up with Donne's poetry, you'll discover startling phrases and juxtapositions which were frowned upon in ages past but which I find helps invigorate the modern reader. Whether your primary way of apprehending poetry is religious, intellectual, or aesthetic, Donne will be a delight to you as it does me. Donne's poetry also has a very personal association with me: when I was courting my wife and in the early years of my marriage, I would read her the poetry of Donne and George Herbert. She not only loved the poetry but loved me more for having read it to her! This Oxford World's Classics edition is not only affordable but authoritative. It includes not only Donne's poetry but also his prose, such as his sermons and letters. Introduction, textual notes, bibliography, chronology, and explanatory notes. Along with the Norton edition, it is the most definitive collection of Donne's works, although the Norton edition has more critical apparatuses. Highly recommended!

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