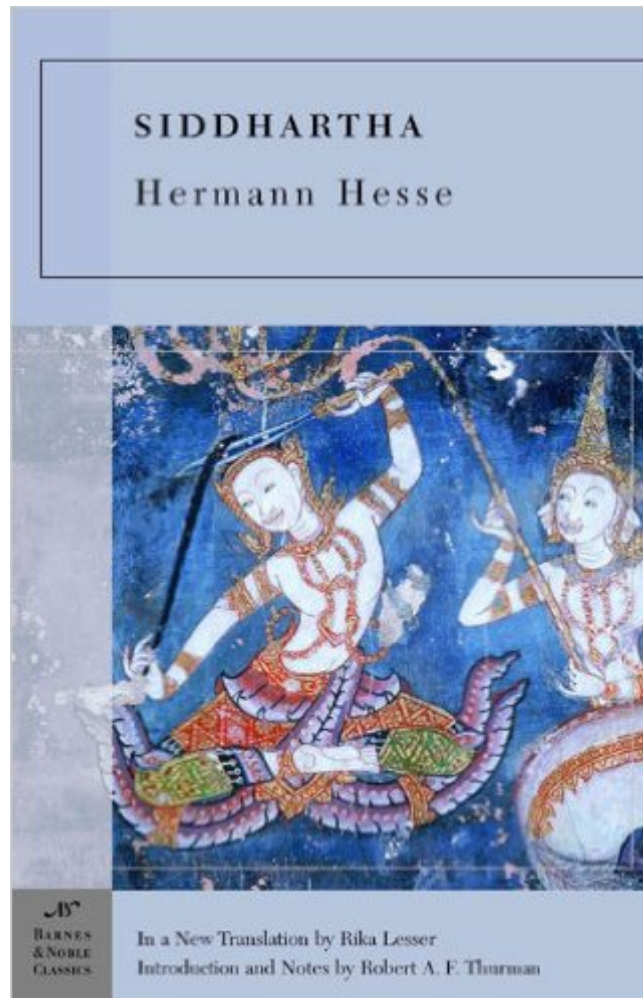


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Siddhartha (Barnes & Noble Classics)



Synopsis

Siddhartha, by Hermann Hesse, is part of the Barnes & Noble Classics® series, which offers quality editions at affordable prices to the student and the general reader, including new scholarship, thoughtful design, and pages of carefully crafted extras. Here are some of the remarkable features of Barnes & Noble Classics: New introductions commissioned from today's top writers and scholars; Biographies of the authors; Chronologies of contemporary historical, biographical, and cultural events; Footnotes and endnotes; Selective discussions of imitations, parodies, poems, books, plays, paintings, operas, statuary, and films inspired by the work; Comments by other famous authors; Study questions to challenge the reader's viewpoints and expectations; Bibliographies for further reading; Indices & Glossaries, when appropriate. All editions are beautifully designed and are printed to superior specifications; some include illustrations of historical interest. Barnes & Noble Classics pulls together a constellation of influences—biographical, historical, and literary—to enrich each reader's understanding of these enduring works.

One of the most widely read novels of the twentieth century, Hermann Hesse's *Siddhartha* explores the struggle of the soul to see beyond the illusions of humankind and achieve a deeper wisdom through spirituality. Born into wealth and privilege, Siddhartha renounces his place among India's nobility to wander the countryside in search of meaning. He learns suffering and self-denial among a group of ascetics before meeting the Buddha and coming to realize that true peace cannot be taught: It must be experienced. Changing his path yet again, Siddhartha reenters human society and earns a great fortune. Yet over time this life leaves Siddhartha restless and empty. He achieves enlightenment only when he stops searching and surrenders to the oneness of all.

Rika Lesser's new translation deftly evokes the lyricism and quiet beauty of Hesse's novel, which first appeared in German in 1922. At once personal and universal, *Siddhartha* stands outside of time, resonating in the hearts of truth-seekers everywhere.

Robert A. F. Thurman holds the first endowed chair in Indo-Tibetan Buddhist Studies in the United States, the Jey Tsong Khapa Chair at Columbia University. The first American to be ordained a Tibetan monk, he has been a student and friend of His Holiness the Dalai Lama for forty years. Thurman is the author of numerous books, most recently *Infinite Life: Seven Virtues for Living Well*.

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Customer Reviews

Siddhartha by Hermann Hesse is a fictional story meant to describe the protagonist Siddhartha with similarities to the path of Buddha and the principles of asceticism. Siddhartha grows up as the son of the Brahmin, everyone that crossed Siddhartha's way liked and enjoyed his presence; however he did not feel such an excitement about himself. Along with his friend Govinda, Siddhartha renounces to the life of sacred rituals and teachings to follow a group of shramanas that were visiting their town. Govinda was the son of a Brahmin and also Siddhartha's shadow, where Siddhartha went Govinda followed. Together, Siddhartha and Govinda became shramanas; they learn how to take full control of their mind and body among other abilities. Both shramanas live in the forest for a few years taking all the knowledge from their shramana teachers and elder shramanas. However they realize that even their eldest fellow shramanas had not reached Nirvana and they that would not reach it either because they follow the same teachings and preachers. Siddhartha suggests going on a different journey to find Buddha and to learn from his teachings first hand. Very soon Siddhartha and Govinda reach Jetavana and without certainty recognize Gautama (Buddha) and follow him to Anathapindika's garden where all the other pilgrims went to hear Buddha. Later Govinda asks to be received in the community to trail along the teaching of Buddha but to his surprise Siddhartha leaves to just focus on himself, while Govinda remains in Jetavana. Back in his cycle of journeys, Siddhartha meets Kamala, an attractive woman which he seeks for instruction and friendship.

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