



Snopes: The Hamlet, The Town, The Mansion (Modern Library)

By William Faulkner

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Here, published in a single volume as he always hoped they would be, are the three novels that comprise William Faulkner's famous Snopes trilogy, a saga that stands as perhaps the greatest feat of this celebrated author's incomparable imagination. *The Hamlet*, the first book of the series chronicling the advent and rise of the grasping Snopes family in mythical Yoknapatawpha County, is a work that Cleanth Brooks called "one of the richest novels in the Faulkner canon." It recounts how the wily, cunning Flem Snopes dominates the rural community of Frenchman's Bend—and claims the voluptuous Eula Varner as his bride. *The Town*, the central novel, records Flem's ruthless struggle to take over the county seat of Jefferson, Mississippi. Finally, *The Mansion* tells of Mink Snopes, whose archaic sense of honor brings about the downfall of his cousin Flem. "For all his concerns with the South, Faulkner was actually seeking out the nature of man," noted Ralph Ellison. "Thus we must turn to him for that continuity of moral purpose which made for the greatness of our classics."

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Editorial Review

About the Author

William Faulkner was an American writer, Nobel Prize laureate and Pulitzer Prize winner. A prolific writer, Faulkner is best known for his novels and short stories, including *The Sound and the Fury* and *As I Lay Dying*, which are set in fictional Yoknapatawpha County, and the Snopes trilogy which includes *The Hamlet*, *The Town* and *The Mansion*. Along with Mark Twain, Truman Capote, Tennessee Williams and Harper Lee, Faulkner is considered one of the most important writers of Southern literature and is known for his experimental style, including the use of stream of consciousness. Faulkner died in 1962.

George Palmer Garrett (1929–2008) was a poet and novelist. He also worked as a book reviewer and screenwriter, and was Poet Laureate of Virginia from 2002 to 2006.

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