



The Betrothed (Everyman's Library (Cloth))

Alessandro Manzoni

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Italy's greatest novel and a masterpiece of world literature, *The Betrothed* chronicles the unforgettable romance of Renzo and Lucia, who endure tyranny, war, famine, and plague to be together.

Published in 1827 but set two centuries earlier, against the tumultuous backdrop of seventeenth-century Lombardy during the Thirty Years' War, *The Betrothed* is the story of two peasant lovers who want nothing more than to marry. Their region of northern Italy is under Spanish occupation, and when the vicious Spaniard Don Rodrigo blocks their union in an attempt to take Lucia for himself, the couple must struggle to persevere against his plots—which include false charges against Renzo and the kidnapping of Lucia by a robber baron called the Unnamed—while beset by the hazards of war, bread riots, and a terrifying outbreak of bubonic plague. First and foremost a love story, the novel also weaves issues of faith, justice, power, and truth into a sweeping epic in the tradition of *Ivanhoe*, *Les Misérables*, and *War and Peace*. Groundbreakingly populist in its day and hugely influential to succeeding generations, Alessandro Manzoni's masterwork has long been considered one of Italy's national treasures.

Translated by Archibald Colquhoun

(Book Jacket Status: Jacketed)

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