

'And they beheld Him even Him, ben Bloom Elijah, amid clouds of angels ascend to the glory of the brightness at an angle of forty-five degrees over Donohoe's in Little Green Street like a shot off a shovel.'

JOYCE : *Ulysses*

EDITED BY JERI JOHNSON

Ulysses has been labelled dirty, blasphemous and unreadable. In a famous 1933 court decision, Judge John M. Woolsey declared it an emetic book – although he found it not quite obscene enough to disallow its importation into the United States – and Virginia Woolf was moved to decry James Joyce's 'cloacal obsession'. None of these descriptions, however, do the slightest justice to the novel. To this day it remains the modernist masterpiece, in which the author takes both Celtic lyricism and vulgarity to splendid extremes. It is funny, sorrowful, and even (in its own way) suspenseful. And despite the exegetical industry that has sprung up in the last 75 years, *Ulysses* is also a compulsively readable book. Even the verbal vaudeville of the final chapters can be navigated with relative ease, as long as you're willing to be buffeted, tickled, challenged and (occasionally) vexed by Joyce's astonishing command of the English language.

Cover illustration: Study towards an image of Joyce by Louis le Brocqy, 1977, private collection.

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JOYCE : *Ulysses*

READER'S CLASSICS

JAMES JOYCE

ULYSSES



'Now I was making my way through the garden. There was that strange light which follows a day of persistent rain, when the sun comes out and the sky clears too late to be of any use. The earth makes a sound as of sighs and the last drops fall from the emptied cloudless sky. A small boy, stretching out his hands and looking up at the blue sky, asked his mother how such a thing was possible. Fuck off, she said.'

BECKETT : Complete Short Prose

EDITED BY S. E. GONARSKI

Nobel prize winner Samuel Beckett is one of the most profoundly original writers of our century. He gives expression to the anguish and isolation of the individual consciousness with a purity and minimalism that have altered the shape of world literature. A tremendously influential poet and dramatist, Beckett spoke of his prose fiction as 'important writing', the medium in which he distilled his ideas most powerfully. Here, for the first time, his short prose is gathered in a definitive, complete volume by leading Beckett scholar S. E. Gonnarski.

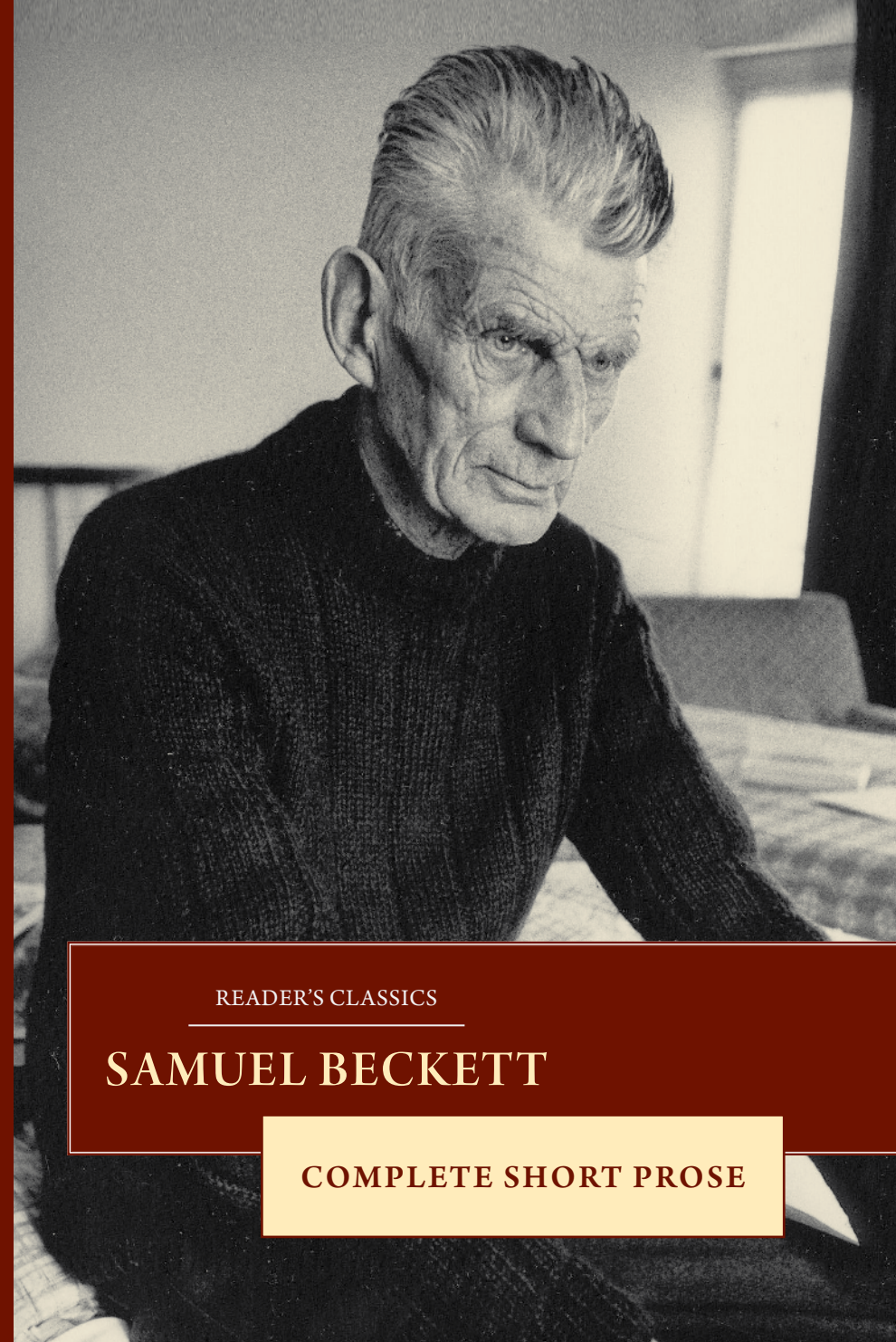
Cover photograph: Samuel Beckett in room 604 of The Hyde Park Hotel, London 1980 (2) © John Minihan

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READERS
CLASSICS

BECKETT : Complete Short Prose



READER'S CLASSICS

SAMUEL BECKETT

COMPLETE SHORT PROSE

Why then dost thou not wait in tranquility for thy end, whether it is extinction or removal to another state? And until that time comes, what is sufficient? Why, what else than to venerate the gods & bless them, & to do good to men, and to practise tolerance & self-restraint; but as to everything which is beyond the limits of the poor flesh & breath, to remember that this is neither thine nor in thy power.

MARCUS AURELIUS : **Meditations**

The uncompromising stiffness of the Stoics Zeno or Chryppus is softened and transformed by passing through a nature reverent and tolerant, gentle and free from guile; the grim resignation which made life possible to the Stoic sage becomes in him almost a mood of aspiration. His book records the innermost thoughts of his heart, set down to ease it, with such moral maxims and reflections as may help him to bear the burden of duty and the countless annoyances of a busy life.

By the irony of fate this man, so gentle and good, so desirous of quiet joys and a mind free from care, was set at the head of the Roman Empire when great dangers threatened from east and west. For several years he himself commanded his armies in chief. In camp before the Quadi he dates the first book of his *Meditations*, and shows how he could retire within himself amid the coarse clangour of arms. The pomps and glories which he despised were all his; what to most men is an ambition or a dream, to him was a round of weary tasks which nothing but the stern sense of duty could carry him through. And he did his work well. His wars were slow and tedious, but successful.

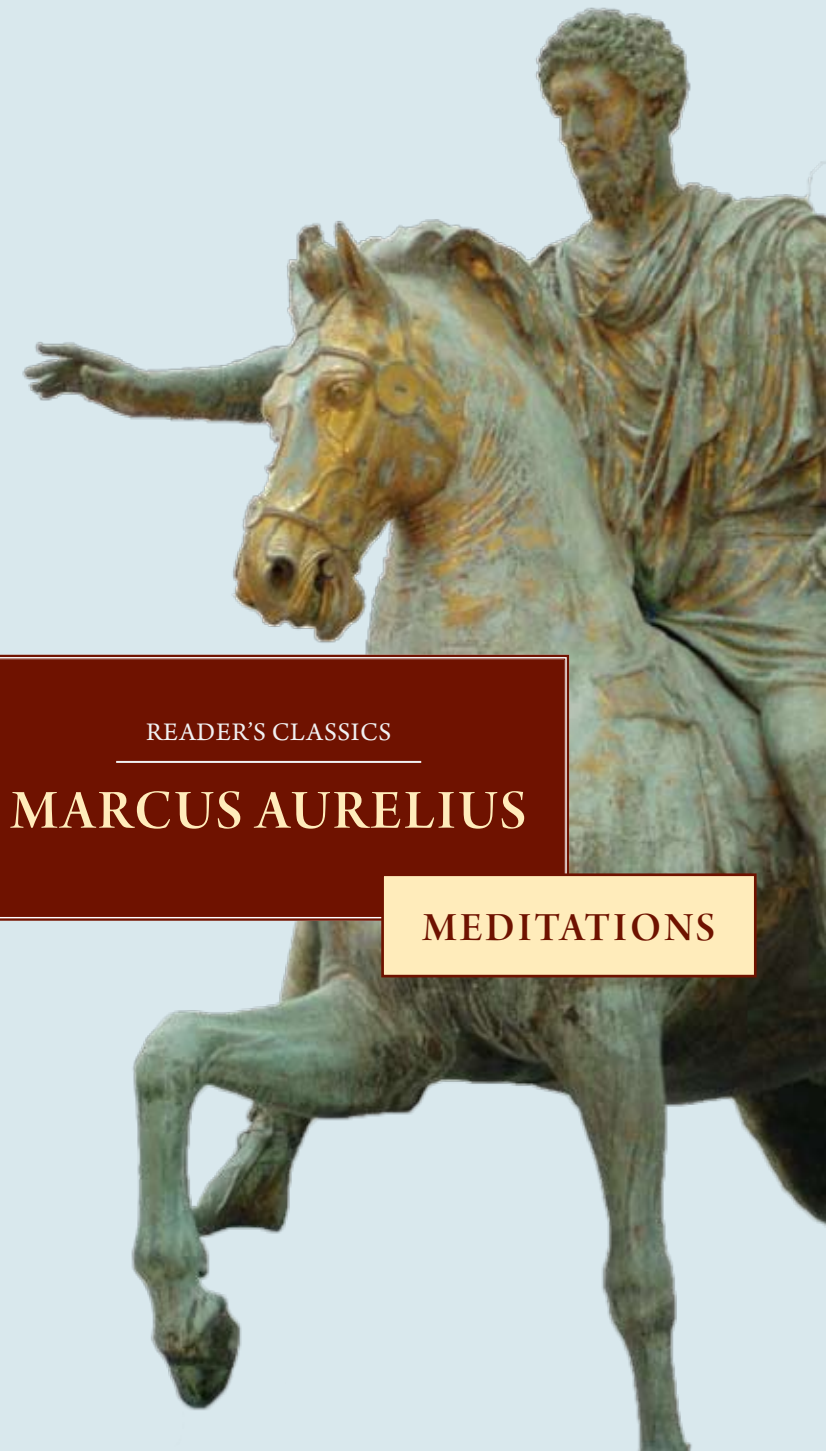
Cover illustration: bronze statue of Marcus Aurelius. Capitoline Museum, Rome.

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MARCUS AURELIUS : **Meditations**



READER'S CLASSICS

MARCUS AURELIUS

MEDITATIONS



'When the wheel of sexual ecstasy is in full motion, there is no textbook at all, and no order.'

MALLANAGA : **Kamasutra**

TRANSLATED WITH AN INTRODUCTION AND NOTES BY
WENDY DONIGER AND SUDHIR KAKAR

The Kamasutra is the oldest extant Hindu textbook of erotic love. It is about the art of living – about finding a partner, maintaining power in a marriage, committing adultery, living as or with a courtesan, using drugs – and also about the positions in sexual intercourse. It was composed in Sanskrit, the literary language of ancient India, sometime in the third century CE. It combines an encyclopaedic coverage of all imaginable aspects of sex with a closely observed sexual psychology and a dramatic, novelistic narrative of seduction, consummation, and disentanglement.

Best known in English through the highly mannered, padded, and inaccurate nineteenth-century translation of Sir Richard Burton, the text is presented here in an entirely new translation into clear, vivid, sexually frank English, together with three commentaries: translated excerpts from the earliest and most famous Sanskrit commentary (13th century) and from a twentieth-century Hindi commentary, and explanatory notes by the two translators.

Cover illustration: detail from The Private Pleasure of Prince Khusrau, son of Jahangir. Bikaner school c.1678–98. Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge.

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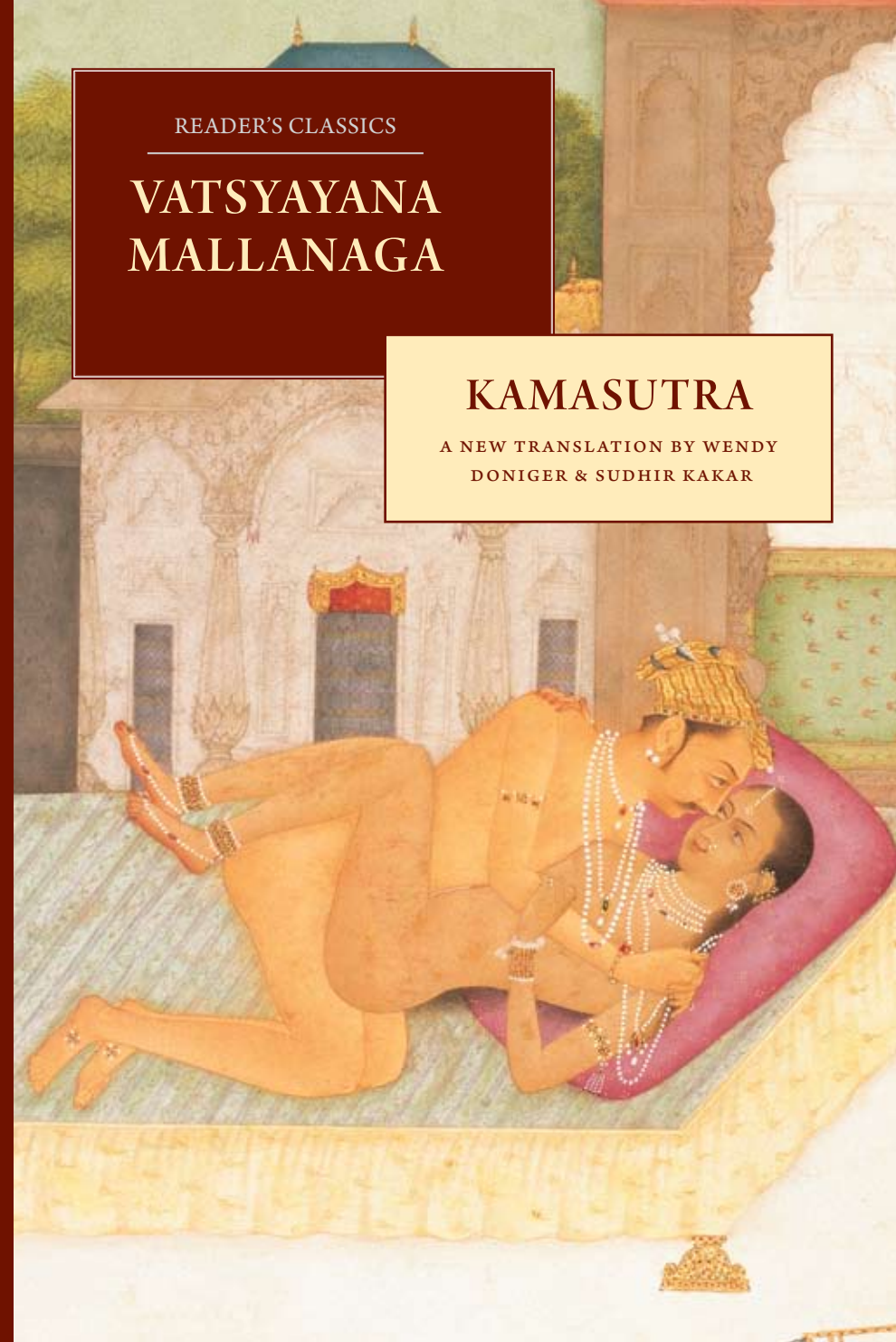
MALLANAGA : **Kamasutra**

READER'S CLASSICS

VATSYAYANA
MALLANAGA

KAMASUTRA

A NEW TRANSLATION BY WENDY
DONIGER & SUDHIR KAKAR



'his perfect indifference, and your pointed dislike, make it so delightfully absurd!'

AUSTEN : **Pride and Prejudice**

EDITED BY JAMES KINSLEY, WITH A NEW INTRODUCTION
AND NOTES BY FIONA STAFFORD

Pride and Prejudice has delighted generations of readers with its unforgettable cast of characters, carefully choreographed plot, and a hugely entertaining view of the world and its absurdities.

With the arrival of eligible young men in their neighbourhood, the lives of Mr and Mrs Bennet and their five daughters are turned inside out and menide down. Pride encounters prejudice, upward-mobility confronts social disdain, and quick-wittedness challenges sagacity, as misconceptions and hasty judgements lead to heartache and scandal, but eventually to true understanding, self-knowledge, and love.

In this supremely satisfying story, Jane Austen balances comedy with seriousness, and witty observation with profound insight. If Elizabeth Bennet returns again and again to her letter from Mr Darcy, readers of the novel are drawn even more irresistibly by its captivating wisdom.

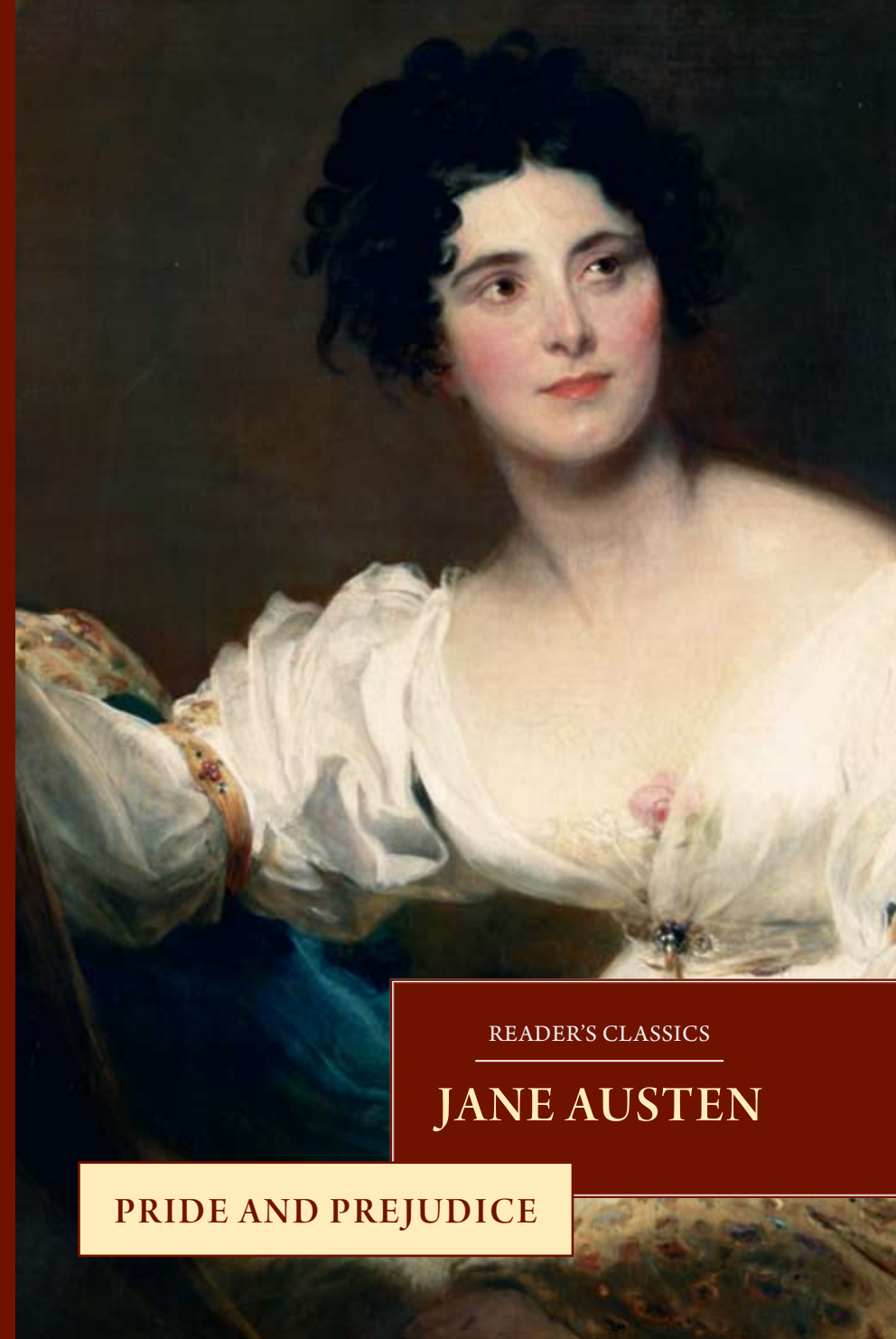
Cover illustration: detail from Couple at window, c. 1815, by Georg Friedrich Kersting. Private collection.

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AUSTEN : **Pride and Prejudice**



READER'S CLASSICS

JANE AUSTEN

PRIDE AND PREJUDICE

READER'S CLASSICS SHAKESPEARE

GENERAL EDITOR, STANLEY WELLS

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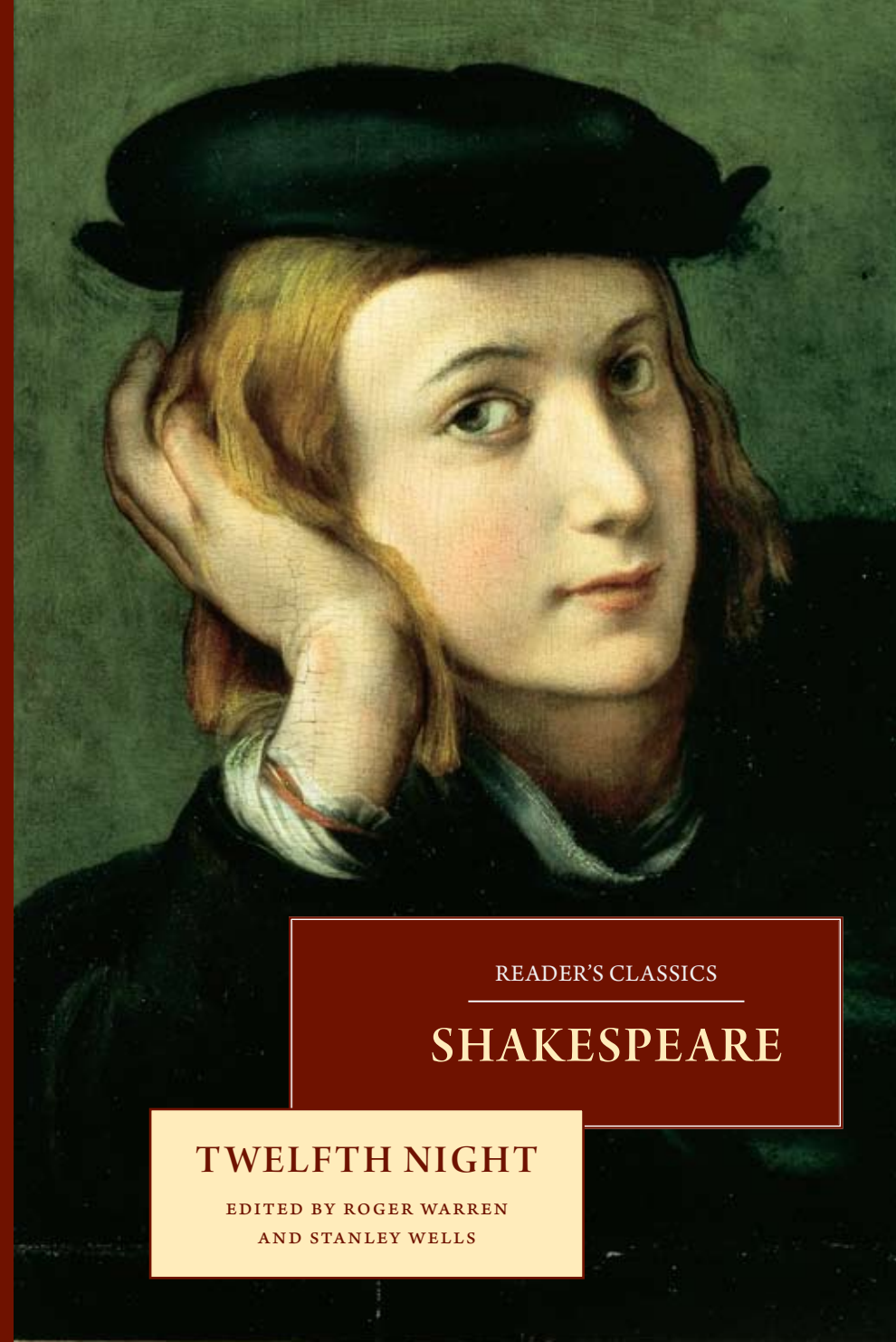
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*Cover illustration: detail from Portrait of a Young Man by Correggio, 1515.
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SHAKESPEARE : *Twelfth Night*



READER'S CLASSICS

SHAKESPEARE

TWELFTH NIGHT

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