

The Red and the Black (Modern Library Classics)

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A Major New Translation

The Red and the Black, Stendhal's masterpiece, is the story of Julien Sorel, a young dreamer from the provinces, fueled by Napoleonic ideals, whose desire to make his fortune sets in motion events both mesmerizing and tragic. Sorel's quest to find himself, and the doomed love he encounters along the way, are delineated with an unprecedented psychological depth and realism. At the same time, Stendhal weaves together the social life and fraught political intrigues of post-Napoleonic France, bringing that world to unforgettable, full-color life. His portrait of Julien and early-nineteenth-century France remains an unsurpassed creation, one that brilliantly anticipates modern literature.

Neglected during its time, The Red and the Black has assumed its rightful place as one of the world's great books, and Burton Raffel's extraordinary new translation, coupled with an enlightening Introduction by Diane Johnson, helps it shine more brightly than ever before. Praise for Burton Raffel's translations

For Balzac's *Père Goriot*

"Raffel's *Père Goriot* is both faithful and beautiful, and that makes it a masterpiece." -Alain Renoir

"I predict that this translation will give Balzac's great novel a new life for English and American readers. . . . The definitive translation for this generation." -Peter Brooks

"[Raffel's] translation has the vigor and elasticity of Balzac's style, and catches with uncanny accuracy the tone of the period." -Guy Davenport

For Cervantes's *Don Quixote*

"[Raffel's *Don Quixote*] recasts the original into lively English, without losing the complexity and flavor of the Spanish. . . . This *Quixote* flows smoothly and reads, in fact, like original prose rather than a translation." -Adrienne Martin
STENDHAL (Marie-Henri Beyle) was born in Grenoble in 1783. He served in Napoleon's cavalry and thereafter lived in Italy and Paris, where he wrote many books, including *On Love*, the autobiographical *Life of Henri Brulard*, *The Charterhouse of Parma* (which he wrote in fifty-two days), and *The Red and the Black*. He died in 1842.

BURTON RAFFEL is a distinguished professor of humanities at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. His many translations include Rabelais's *Gargantua and Pantagruel*, winner of the 1991 French-American Foundation Translation Prize, *Chrétien de Troyes's Arthurian Romances*, Cervantes's *Don Quixote*, and Balzac's *Père Goriot*. His translation of *Beowulf* has sold more than a million copies.

DIANE JOHNSON is the author of ten novels—most recently *Le Mariage* and *Le Divorce*—two books of essays, two biographies, and the screenplay for Stanley Kubrick's classic film *The Shining*. She has been a finalist four times for the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Award.

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