

Cakes and Ale W. Somerset Maugham

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"The Complete Work, Enriched with a Critical Introduction"

ABOUT THE BOOK

A CLASSIC OF LITERARY SATIRE • W. Somerset Maugham's witty and daring novel, long considered one of his finest achievements.

When the respected novelist Edward Driffield dies, his reputation as a great writer seems secure. But beneath the polished biographies and reverent tributes lies another story—of bohemian nights, scandalous affairs, and a first wife who defied convention. Narrated by William Ashenden, a writer who knew Driffield in his youth, the novel peels back the layers of literary fame to reveal the contradictions between art, morality, and truth. At its heart stands Rosie Driffield, warm, sensual, and unapologetically alive, a woman who challenges the hypocrisy of her age.

First published in 1930, W. Somerset Maugham's Cakes and Ale is both a biting satire of literary pretension and a deeply human story about memory, desire, and freedom. Its sharp portraits of the literary world scandalised Maugham's contemporaries, yet its honesty and wit have ensured its lasting place in twentieth-century literature. Few lines capture its spirit better than Rosie's declaration: "The great tragedy of life is not that men perish, but that they cease to love."

This Feel Classics edition makes Maugham's provocative novel accessible for today's readers. With a thoughtful introduction, explanatory notes, glossary, and a detailed chronology of his life and works, it is ideal for students, first-time readers, and literature enthusiasts alike.

A daring, unforgettable classic that still speaks to anyone who has ever questioned reputation, morality, and the price of love.

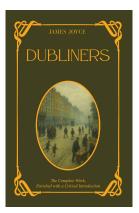
ABOUT THE AUTHOR

W. Somerset Maugham (1874–1965) was a British novelist, short story writer, and playwright, widely known for his clear prose, psychological depth, and cosmopolitan themes. Born in Paris and educated in England, he initially trained as a doctor before turning to writing full-time after the success of his first novel, Liza of Lambeth (1897).

Over a prolific career spanning more than sixty years, Maugham authored numerous acclaimed works, including Of Human Bondage (1915), The Moon and Sixpence (1919), The Painted Veil (1925), Cakes and Ale (1930), and The Razor's Edge (1944). He also gained prominence as a playwright and later as a master of the short story form, drawing upon his extensive travels and experiences—particularly in Asia, Europe, and during his service as a British intelligence agent in World War I.

Maugham spent his later years at his villa on the French Riviera, where he continued to write and reflect on literature, society, and the art of storytelling. His works remain widely read for their narrative elegance, insight into human behaviour, and enduring literary appeal.

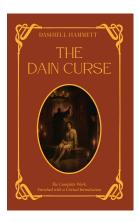
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