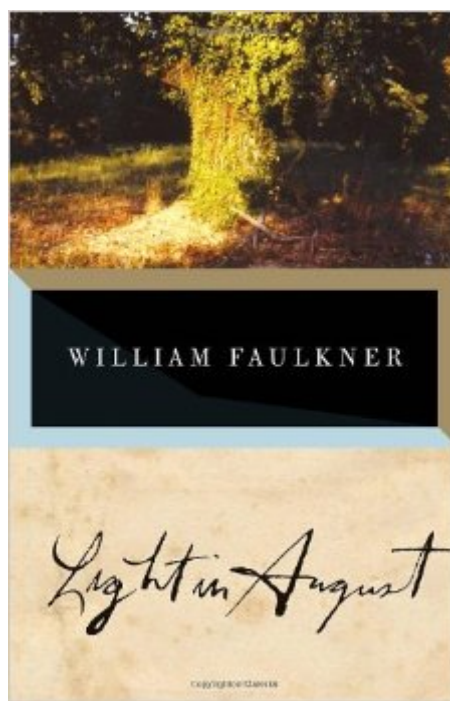


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# Light In August



## Synopsis

“Read, read, read. Read everything—trash, classics, good and bad, and see how they do it. Just like a carpenter who works as an apprentice and studies the master. Read! You’ll absorb it. Then write. If it is good, you’ll find out. If it’s not, throw it out the window.” William Faulkner  
Light in August, a novel about hopeful perseverance in the face of mortality, features some of Faulkner’s most memorable characters: guileless, dauntless Lena Grove, in search of the father of her unborn child; Reverend Gail Hightower, who is plagued by visions of Confederate horsemen; and Joe Christmas, a desperate, enigmatic drifter consumed by his mixed ancestry.

## Book Information

Paperback: 512 pages

Publisher: Vintage International/Random House; 1st Vintage International edition (October 1, 1990)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0679732268

ISBN-13: 978-0679732266

Product Dimensions: 5.2 x 0.9 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 15.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars— See all reviews— (230 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #22,535 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #43 in Books > Literature & Fiction > United States > Classics #862 in Books > Literature & Fiction > Classics #2809 in Books > Literature & Fiction > Literary

## Customer Reviews

"Light in August" may well be my favorite Faulkner novel. With its three interwoven plots, its use of flashback, and its family secrets, the book reads like a multi-generational saga—even though the main storyline occurs over a mere nine days. It deals unflinchingly and unsettlingly with such complex themes as isolation and bigotry in small-town life, race relationships (and, particularly, the meaning of race itself), the constrictions of a strict religious upbringing, and the terror of sexual pathology. And, like Faulkner’s other work, it paints an often unsettling, occasionally gloomy, and even comic portrait of the American South. The lives of several initially far-flung characters overlap in the novel’s complex plot. First, the naïve Lena Grove arrives in Jefferson, searching for Lucas Burch, the man who abandoned her after getting her pregnant; she meets instead Byron Bunch, a quiet man who believes working on Saturdays will keep him out of trouble. Unrelated to Lena’s personal calamity is Bunch’s friend Reverend Gail Hightower, who lost his ministry and became a

reclusive outcast when his wife openly cheated on him and eventually killed herself. But the most powerful and memorable character is the mysterious Joe Christmas, a brooding wanderer whose ancestry is unknown and who finds work (and more) from Joanna Burden, a descendant of abolitionists who continues alone her family's historical advocacy for civil rights. Bringing the stories full-circle is Christmas's relationship with the elusive Lucas Burch; the two drifters operate a moonshine business while they live on Burden's property. In the character of Joe Christmas, Faulkner has invested all his own conflicted feelings and insecurities about race and religion.

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