



NIGHTMARE ABBEY

THOMAS LOVE PEACOCK

- The most enduringly popular work by one of Victorian literature's most accomplished satirical writers.
- Includes an introduction by the author.
- Contains extra material, including explanatory notes and a note on the text, as well as information on the author.

Nightmare Abbey is a novella by Thomas Love Peacock, first published in 1818, widely considered to be Peacock's most enduringly popular work. The narrative centres on Christopher Glowry, a miserly widower, his son Scythrop and a host of dismal-sounding servants in his family pile, Nightmare Abbey. Recovering from an ill-fated love affair, Scythrop dreams up various schemes to reform and regenerate the human species, but misanthropy lurks around every corner, and everything changes when a mermaid is spotted and a strange woman appears in his chamber.

Although fundamentally a Gothic novel, and rich in allusion – from Pope to Dante, Rossini to Mozart – *Nightmare Abbey* is, at heart, a satire, as Peacock makes clear in the preface to a later edition, in which he describes the characters – allusions to his friends – as 'status-quotes', 'morbid visionaries', 'romantic enthusiasts' and 'lovers of good dinners'.

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**'Great mental powers on display in
such lightly told tales.'**

CHRISTOPHER HAWTREE, *GUARDIAN*



ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Thomas Love Peacock (1785–1866) was a poet and author. He was a prolific writer, mainly of satirical works. Peacock's father died in reduced circumstances, so the young Thomas was largely self-educated, and spent much time in the Reading Room at the British Library studying the best classical texts he could find. Peacock is best known today for his novels *Nightmare Abbey* and *Melincourt*.

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