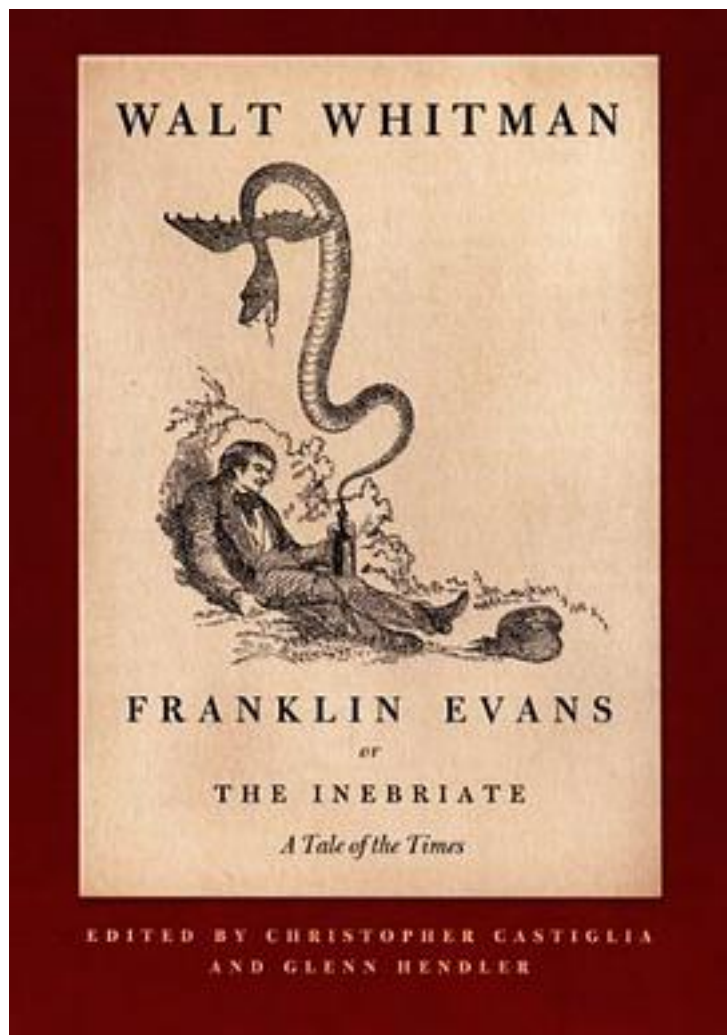


Franklin Evans, or the Inebriate



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著者:Walt Whitman

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Not many people know that Walt Whitman - arguably the pre-eminent American poet

of the nineteenth century - began his literary career as a novelist. Out of print since 1967, "Franklin Evans, or the Inebriate: A Tale of the Times", was his first and only novel. Published in 1842, during a period of intense temperance movement activity, it became Whitman's most popular work during his lifetime, selling some twenty thousand copies. The novel tells the rags-to-riches story of Franklin Evans, an innocent young man from the Long Island countryside who seeks his fortune in New York City. Corrupted by music halls, theatres, and above all taverns, he gradually becomes a drunkard. Until the very end of the tale, Evans' efforts to reform fail, and each time he resumes drinking, another series of misadventures ensues. Along the way, he tries to ally himself with several powerful, wealthy men, and he marries twice. His first wife dies the victim of his drunken neglect, and his second wife - a Creole slave that he rescues from a lascivious overseer - kills herself after murdering his mistress. The death of one of his benefactors finally prompts Evans to sign a 'total abstinence pledge'. 'The editors' substantial introduction locates Franklin Evans in relation to Whitman's life and career, mid-nineteenth-century American print culture, and many of the developments and institutions the novel depicts, including urbanization, immigration, slavery, the temperance movement, and new understandings of class, race, gender, and sexuality. This edition includes three very short temperance stories Whitman published at about the same time as he did Franklin Evans, the surviving fragment of what appears to be another unfinished temperance novel by Whitman, and a temperance speech by Abraham Lincoln from the same year Franklin Evans was published.

作者介绍:

Walter "Walt" Whitman (May 31, 1819 – March 26, 1892) was an American poet, essayist, and journalist. A humanist, he was a part of the transition between transcendentalism and realism, incorporating both views in his works. Whitman is among the most influential poets in the American canon, often called the father of free verse. His work was very controversial in its time, particularly his poetry collection *Leaves of Grass*, which was described as obscene for its overt sexuality.

Born in Huntington on Long Island, Whitman worked as a journalist, a teacher, a government clerk, and—in addition to publishing his poetry—was a volunteer nurse during the American Civil War. Early in his career, he also produced a temperance novel, *Franklin Evans* (1842). Whitman's major work, *Leaves of Grass*, was first published in 1855 with his own money. The work was an attempt at reaching out to the common person with an American epic. He continued expanding and revising it until his death in 1892. After a stroke towards the end of his life, he moved to Camden, New Jersey, where his health further declined. When he died at age 72, his funeral became a public spectacle.

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