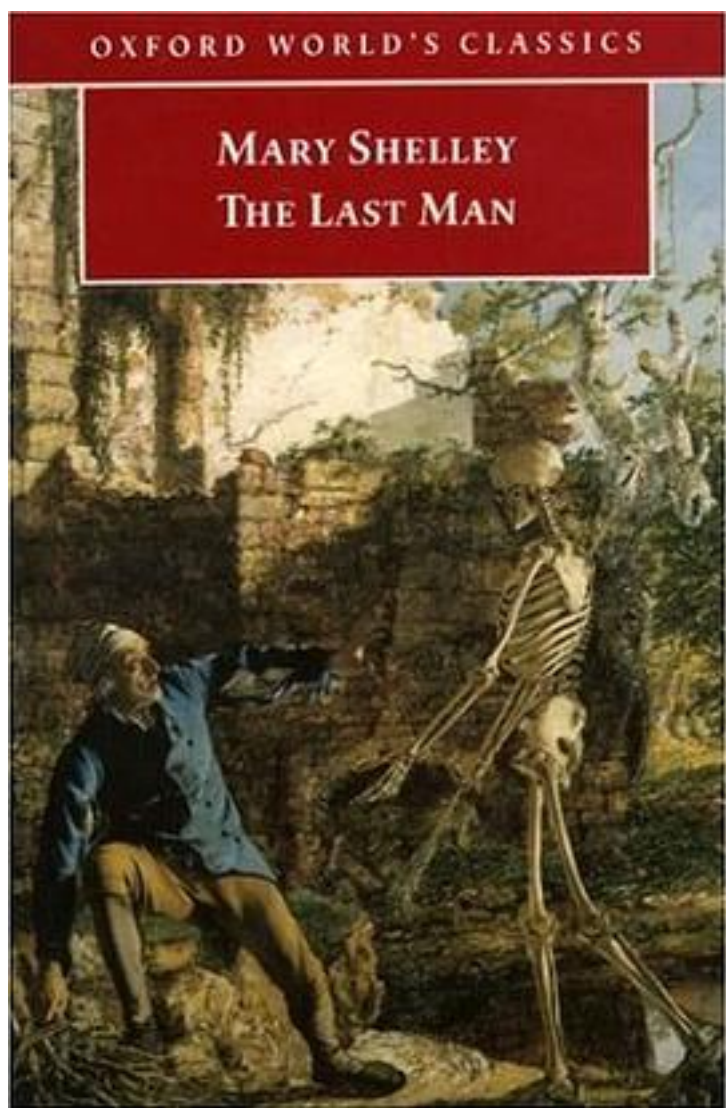


The Last Man (Oxford World's Classics)



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著者:Mary Shelley

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'The last man! I may well describe that solitary being's feelings, feeling myself as the last relic of a beloved race, my companions extinct before me.' Mary Shelley, Journal (May 1824). Best remembered as the author of Frankenstein, Mary Shelley wrote The Last Man eight years later, on returning to England from Italy after her husband's death. It is the twenty-first century, and England is a republic governed by a ruling elite, one of whom, Adrian, Earl of Windsor, has introduced a Cumbrian boy to the circle. This outsider, Lionel Verney, narrates the story, a tale of complicated, tragic love, and of the gradual extermination of the human race by plague. The Last Man also functions as an intriguing roman a clef, for the saintly Adrian is a monument to Percy Bysshe Shelley, and his friend Lord Raymond is a portrait of Byron. The novel offers a vision of the future that expresses a reaction against Romanticism, as Shelley demonstrates the failure of the imagination and of art to redeem her doomed characters. ABOUT THE SERIES: For over 100 years Oxford World's Classics has made available the widest range of literature from around the globe. Each affordable volume reflects Oxford's commitment to scholarship, providing the most accurate text plus a wealth of other valuable features, including expert introductions by leading authorities, helpful notes to clarify the text, up-to-date bibliographies for further study, and much more.

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评论

性别角色是女性作家作品里常受关注的议题，尤其是在这篇未来幻想小说中，最后存活下来的是一个男人。书中主要男性角色皆具浪漫主义英雄特色，主次男性分别是雪莱与拜伦的化身，而玛丽本人隐藏在众多角色后，有观点认为她即是幸存下来的男性叙述者。女性在本书中只扮演母亲与爱人的传统角色，并不参与国家大事，但女性力量在本书中的传达是强大而隐晦的：女性预言贯穿，自然灾害的女性特质（自然，命运性别都为女），对于风（女性）强大于太阳（男性），毁灭全世界的描述。对于浪漫爱情以及贵族之间的种种仪礼、英雄做派有点看不下去，但总有喜好此类的读者。对于科技发展的想象力度不够，远逊《弗兰肯斯坦》，使得此本未来小说完全显得像古代田园浪漫书。最后一人从野兽的发端，经历浪漫主义教育，又回到孤身的野兽生活。

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