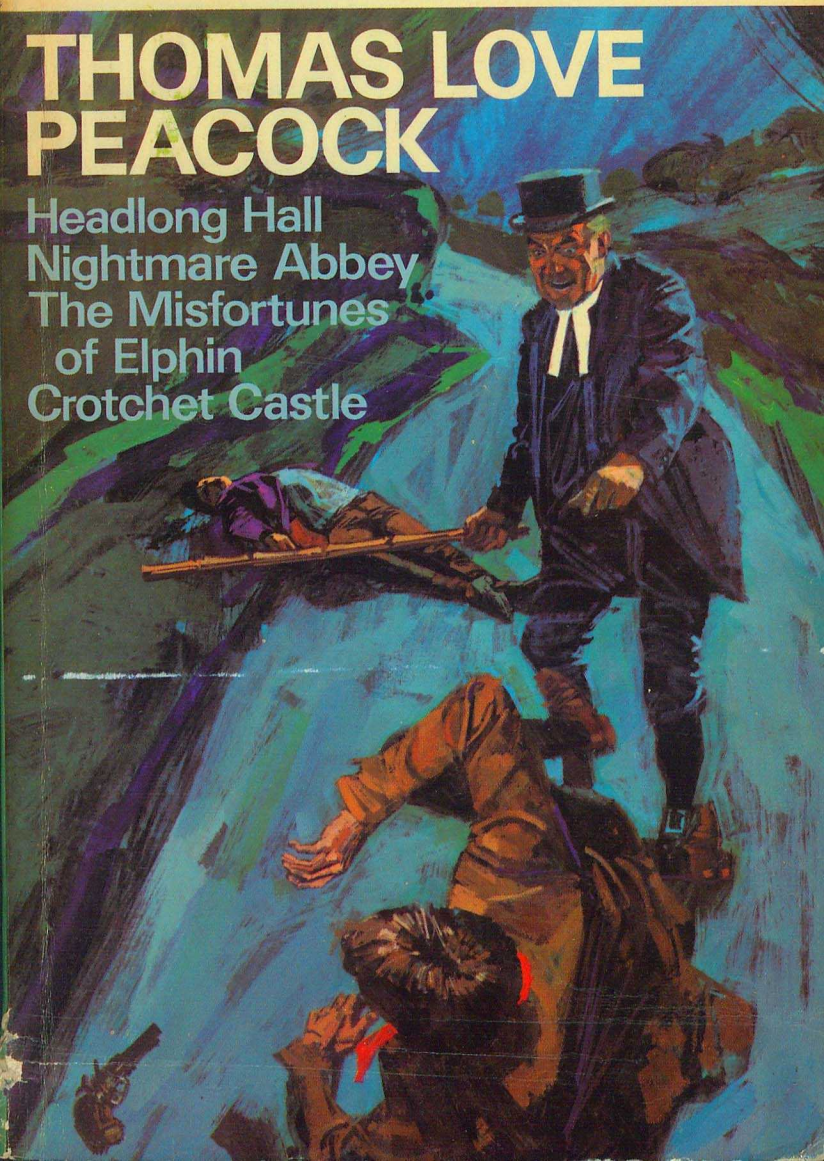




Bestsellers of Literature

THOMAS LOVE PEACOCK

Headlong Hall
Nightmare Abbey
The Misfortunes
of Elphin
Crotchet Castle



NOVELS OF THOMAS LOVE PEACOCK

Thomas Love Peacock (1785-1866), the son of a glass-maker, was born at Weymouth and brought up beside the Thames at Chertsey. From 1819 to 1856, he worked in the Examiner's Department of the East India Office. He started the monthly mail service to India, and was responsible for sending armed boats up Indian rivers for combined operations with land forces.

Peacock began his literary career as a poet. He wrote the first three of his seven novels in the three years before joining the India Office, and the last, *Gryll Grange*, years after his retirement. He married a Welshwoman, Jane Gryffydd, proposing by post eight years after he had last met her. After his wife's death in 1851, his daughter and her husband George Meredith went to live with him for a time. It was the influence of Peacock which turned Meredith into the novelist of romantic narrative fused with intellectual comedy: and in *The Egoist* Meredith based the character of Dr Middleton on his father-in-law, Thomas Love Peacock.

Contingency
Teheran 1968

The cover painting by John Raynes, A.R.C.A., M.S.I.A., illustrates an amusing episode in Crotchet Castle wherein the Reverend Doctor Folliott gives both a beating and a lecture to one of a pair of ruffians who have waylaid him, the other miscreant having been accidentally shot by his partner in crime.