



# The Exorcist: 40th Anniversary Edition

*William Peter Blatty*

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## **The Exorcist: 40th Anniversary Edition** William Peter Blatty

Originally published in 1971, *The Exorcist*, one of the most controversial novels ever written, went on to become a literary phenomenon: It spent fifty-seven weeks on the *New York Times* bestseller list, seventeen consecutively at number one. Inspired by a true story of a child's demonic possession in the 1940s, William Peter Blatty created an iconic novel that focuses on Regan, the eleven-year-old daughter of a movie actress residing in Washington, D.C. A small group of overwhelmed yet determined individuals must rescue Regan from her unspeakable fate, and the drama that ensues is gripping and unfailingly terrifying. Two years after its publication, *The Exorcist* was, of course, turned into a wildly popular motion picture, garnering ten Academy Award nominations. On opening day of the film, lines of the novel's fans stretched around city blocks. In Chicago, frustrated moviegoers used a battering ram to gain entry through the double side doors of a theater. In Kansas City, police used tear gas to disperse an impatient crowd who tried to force their way into a cinema. The three major television networks carried footage of these events; CBS's Walter Cronkite devoted almost ten minutes to the story. *The Exorcist* was, and is, more than just a novel and a film: it is a literary landmark. Purposefully raw and profane, *The Exorcist* still has the extraordinary ability to disturb readers and cause them to forget that it is "just a story." Newly polished and added to by its author and published here in this beautiful fortieth anniversary edition, it remains an unforgettable reading experience and will continue to shock and frighten a new generation of readers.

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