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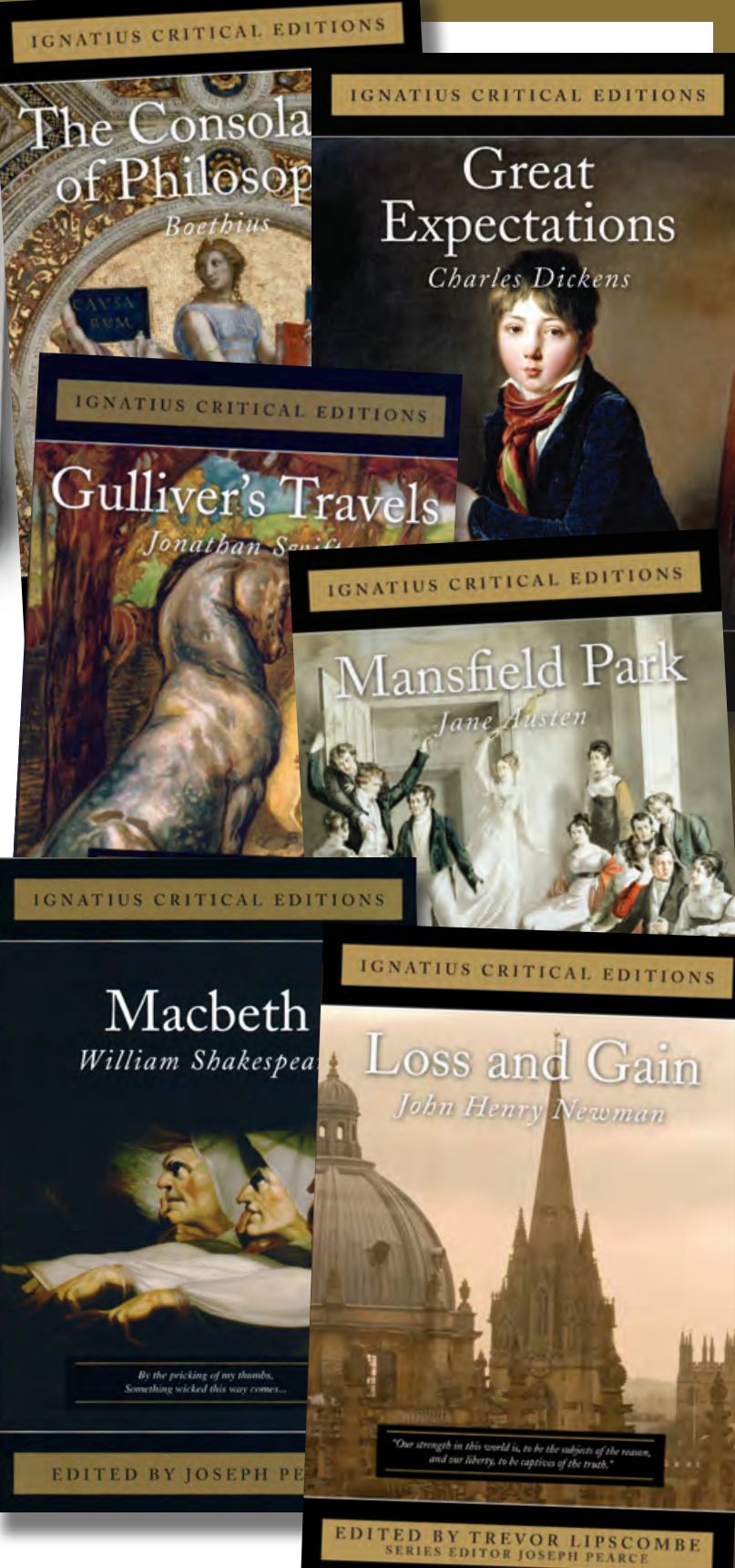
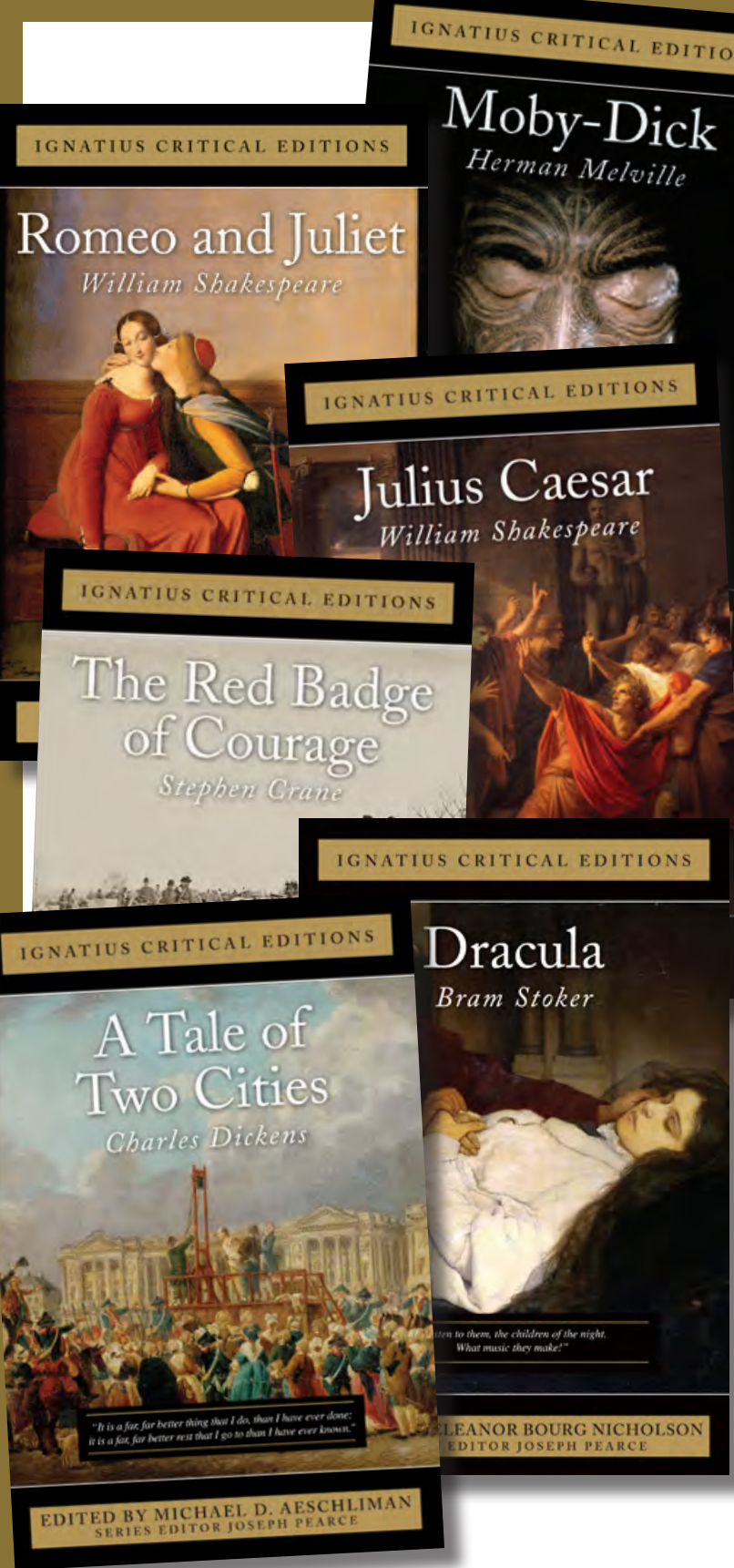
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SERIES EDITOR JOSEPH PEARCE

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A Tale of Two Cities by Charles Dickens. Set during the French Revolution, this classic novel expresses sympathy for the downtrodden poor and their outrage at the self-indulgent aristocracy. But Dickens is no friend of the vengeful mob storming the Bastille and cheering the guillotine. As always, his passion is for the unforgettable individuals he creates. The sorrows of the suffering masses, their demands for justice, and the indiscriminate fury they unleash take flesh in Madame Defarge, while the self-sacrifice that is the truest means of atonement and rebirth manifests in the unlikely hero Sydney Carton.

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Dracula by Bram Stoker. Often vacillating wildly between the terrible and the comic, *Dracula* at the same time brings to life a host of compelling themes: tensions between antiquity and modernity; the powers and limitations of technology; the critical importance of feminine virtue; the difference between superstition and religion; the nature of evil; and, perhaps most compellingly, the complex relationship between ancient faith and scientific enlightenment.

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Moby Dick by Herman Melville. A sea adventure, a study of evil, and a cast of fascinating characters—*Moby Dick* is all of this and more. Based on the author's experiences as a sailor, Herman Melville's probing look into the human heart has been read and analyzed from every angle, including the most absurd. The tragic tale is looked at afresh in this *Ignatius Critical Edition*, which examines the background and other writings of Melville.

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Romeo and Juliet by William Shakespeare. "Star-crossed" Romeo and Juliet are Shakespeare's most famous lovers. Given the tragic ending of the play, what does Shakespeare illustrate about his teen protagonists: Are they the hapless victims of fate, or are they responsible for the poor choices they make? Is their love the "real thing", or is it self-indulgent passion run amok?

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Julius Caesar by William Shakespeare. Seemingly irreconcilable forces are at work in this great play: fate and free will, the changeableness and stubbornness of ambitious men, the demands of public service and the desire for private gain. The major characters—Caesar, Brutus, Cassius, and Mark Antony—are complex, as are the twists and turns of their fortunes. The questions raised are relevant in every age, whether ancient Rome, Elizabethan England, or our own day.

ICE:JC-P...240 pp, Sewn softcover, \$5.95
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The Red Badge of Courage by Stephen Crane. Crane described his novel as a "psychological portrait of fear." His realistic narrative is based on stories told by Civil War veterans. While those accounts tended to focus on the external action of warfare, the young newspaper reporter aspired to illustrate the internal experience of the soldier. In a sense, modern American fiction begins with Crane's masterful, impressionistic depiction of Private Henry Fleming under fire.

ICE:RBC-P...296 pp, Sewn softcover, \$7.95
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Hamlet by William Shakespeare. Arguably Shakespeare's finest and most important play, *Hamlet* is also one of the most misunderstood masterpieces of world literature. "To be or not to be", may be the question, but the answer has eluded many generations of critics. What does it mean "to be"? And is everything as it seems to be? This edition will help many people truly see the play and its deepest meaning in a new and surprising light.

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The Picture of Dorian Gray by Oscar Wilde. In true Faustian tradition this novel tells the tale of a young man who sells his soul to the devil in return for youthful immortality, only to discover that the "devil's bargain" is no bargain at all. "What does it profit a man if he gazed the whole world and lose his own soul?" When Dorian Gray is asked this question he knows the answer. He has learned his lesson the hard way and has destroyed the lives of others into the bargain.

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Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen. Austen was arguably the finest female novelist who ever lived and this is arguably the finest, and certainly the most popular, of her novels. However, its profound Christian morality is all too often missed or willfully overlooked by today's (post)modern critics. Yet Austen saw the follies and foibles of human nature, and the frictions and fidelities of family life, with an incisive eye that penetrates to the very heart of the human condition.

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King Lear by William Shakespeare. One of the most popular of Shakespeare's plays, this is also one of the most thought-provoking. It turns on the practical ramifications of Christ's words that we should render unto Caesar that which is Caesar's and unto God that which is God's. This edition includes new critical essays by some of the leading lights in contemporary literary scholarship.

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Frankenstein by Mary Shelley. This is among the most influential and controversial novels of the nineteenth century; it is also one of the most misunderstood and misinterpreted. This critical edition contains tradition-oriented essays by literary scholars that serve as an antidote to the poison that has contaminated the critical understanding of this classic gothic novel.

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Wuthering Heights by Emily Brontë. This is one of the classic novels of nineteenth-century romanticism. What was Emily Brontë's intention? Were they iconoclastic? Were they feminist? Were they Christian or post-Christian? Who are the heroes and the villains in this dark masterpiece? Are there any heroes? Are there any villains? This critical edition includes new and controversial critical essays by some of the leading lights in contemporary literary scholarship.

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Adventures of Huckleberry Finn by Mark Twain. This is, according to many critics and fond readers, the great American novel. As Huck and Jim float down the Mississippi and encounter all manner of people and situations, and as Huck struggles mightily with his conscience concerning Jim, the novel strongly invites a moral and religious perspective. Full of vibrant characters, intriguing regional dialects, and down-home good humor, the novel also hits Americans in one of their greatest and on-going sore spots: the fraught issue of racism.

ICE:HF-P...414 pp, Sewn softcover, \$9.95
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The Scarlet Letter by Nathaniel Hawthorne. A key figure in the development of American literature, Hawthorne was also profoundly influenced by his ancestors and the Christianity that formed their Puritan heritage. This literary classic presents a profound meditation on the nature of sin, repentance, and redemption, and on how such Christian concepts may be integrated into American democracy.

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The Merchant of Venice by William Shakespeare. This is probably the most controversial and misunderstood of Shakespeare's plays. Is it a comedy or a tragedy? Who is the real villain of the trial scene? Is Shylock simply vicious and venomous, or is he more sinned against than sinning? Can the play be described as anti-Semitic? These questions and many others are answered in this critical edition.

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Uncle Tom's Cabin by Harriet Beecher Stowe. First published in 1852, this monumental work is now being reexamined by critics, scholars, and students. Stowe's Tom is American literature's first black hero, a man who suffers for refusing to obey his oppressors. *Uncle Tom's Cabin* is a living, relevant story about the cruelest forms of injustice and the courage it takes to fight them.

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The Consolation of Philosophy by Boethius. This was one of the most popular and influential works of the Middle Ages. Boethius composed it while awaiting the death sentence for treason in prison. In the *Consolation*, Boethius explores the true end of life—knowledge of God—through a conversation with Lady Philosophy. Part prose, part poetry, the work combines Greek philosophy and Christian faith to formulate answers to some of life's most difficult and enduring questions.

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Great Expectations by Charles Dickens. True charity permeates Dickens' novels and ultimately drives the characters either to choose regeneration or risk disintegration. Pip—symbolic of the pilgrim convert—gains both improved fortunes and a growth in wisdom, but as he acquires the latter, he must relinquish the former. As we travel with Pip, we find that Dickens leads us to an acceptance of worldly limitations and an anticipation of final salvation.

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Gulliver's Travels by Johathan Swift. This is one of the greatest satirical works ever written. Through the misadventures of Lemuel Gulliver, Swift exposes many of the follies of the English Enlightenment, from its worship of science to its neglect of traditional philosophy and theology. Swift's satire on the threats posed by the Enlightenment makes this priceless reading for today's defenders of tradition.

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Mansfield Park by Jane Austen. This novel about ordination and family delves into questions of the upbringing of children, of conservative values, of parental authority, of the place of romantic love, of the tension between propriety and sophistication, and of the dangers of undue familiarity outside the family circle. It unerringly displays the depth of Austen's wisdom, especially in her understanding of the spiritual, psychological, and cultural complexities of morality.

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Macbeth by William Shakespeare. Arguably the darkest of all Shakespeare's plays, *Macbeth* is also one of the most challenging. Is it a work of nihilistic despair, "a tale told by an idiot, full of sound and fury, signifying nothing", or a cautionary tale warning of Machiavellianism and relativism? This critical edition explores *Macbeth* as a morality play, as a history play with contemporary relevance, and as a drama grappling with the problem of free will.

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Loss and Gain by John Henry Newman. This novel about a young man's intellectual and spiritual development was the first work Blessed John Henry Newman wrote after entering the Catholic Church in 1845. The story describes the perplexing questions and doubts Charles Reding experiences while attending Oxford. A former Anglican clergyman who was later named a Catholic cardinal, Newman wrote this autobiographical novel to illustrate his own reasons for embracing Catholicism.

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