

personal english



Published anonymously in **1824** by Scottish author **James Hogg**, this novel encompasses the genres of the **Gothic novel**, the **satire**, the **psychological novel** and **metafiction**. The story combines a **hyper-realistic historical setting** with a number of **supernatural events**, and it unfolds twice thanks to the sequential presence of **two narrators**: the 'Editor', who gives his account of the facts as he understands them to be, and the 'Sinner' himself, who gradually spirals down into despair and madness.

Other than a **compelling whodunit**, the novel may be read as a strong critique of religious fanaticism through its mordant portrait of the **Calvinist concept of predestination**. The novel is steeped in a major religious controversy that hasn't ceased to spur debate since the dawn of Protestantism – the so-called **Antinomianism**. Antinomians believe that obedience to the divine law is motivated by an internal principle flowing from belief rather than from any external coercion – accordingly, in their opinion those who are predestined to salvation do not need to follow the law. The Antinomian '**covenant of grace**' (as opposed to the 'covenant of works' propounded by other Christians) is the trigger behind the crimes that set the plot in motion...

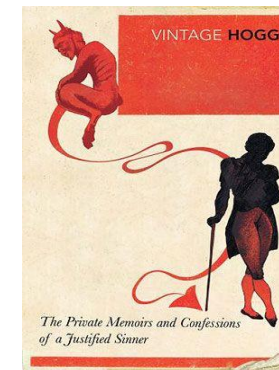
Book #28

The Private Memoirs and Confessions of A Justified Sinner

by James Hogg



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