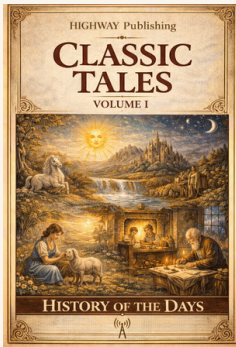
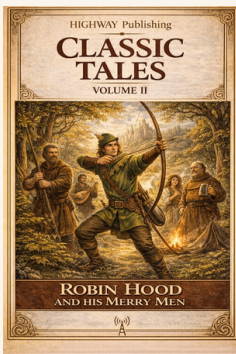


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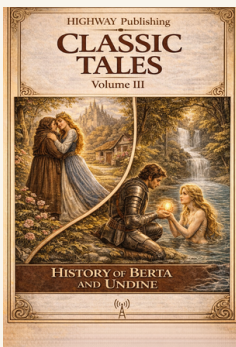
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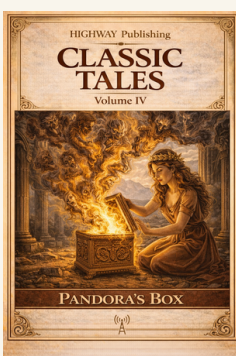
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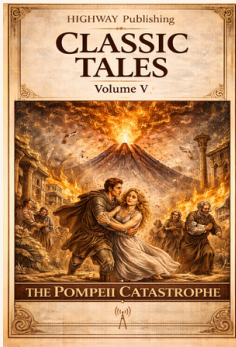
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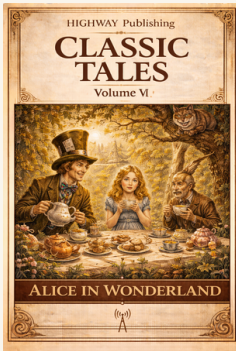
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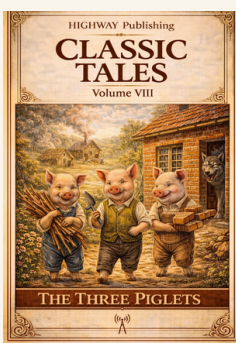
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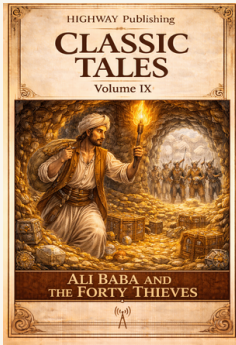
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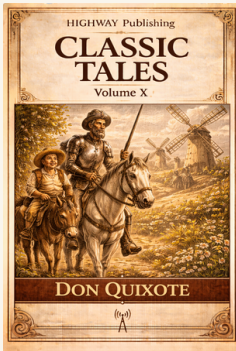
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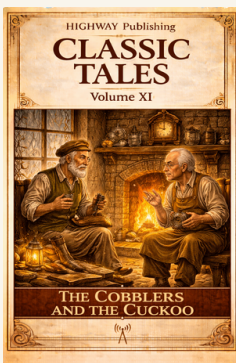
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TALMUD TALES

AMONG the books today and over the past centuries that have been considered sacred, the Jewish Talmud always occupies a prominent place. The Jews read it almost like another Bible, and much of it consists of traditions and laws which are said to have been communicated by word of mouth from the time of Moses. It contains the rabbis' writings, or authorized Jewish teachers, and includes stories, geography, poetry, law, and theology, unmatched in all literature. There are in it much tasteless and trivial tales, but there is also much that is wise and true, and many good stories, some of which will be told below.

THE BEAR IN THE WELL

A fox and a bear were walking together one day when passing in front of a house and sniffed the food. The fox suggested the idea to his partner to slide into the kitchen when no one was there to steal something to eat. The bear accepted, but being in the kitchen, the cook came, grabbed the bear, and punished him. The bear threatened to kill the fox, but the cunning animal said:

"Do not fight between us about this issue, and I'll take you to another site where surely we will find enough food.

At night the fox led the bear to a deep well, and showing the reflection of the moon in the water, said:

"Behold a beautiful cheese. Let's go down to take it".

He was then placed tied to one end of the rope bucket and told the bear to get on the other. But the fox was too slight to counter the bear's weight so he put on his side a large stone.

As soon as the bear had entered the other cube, the fox threw the stone and the bear fell to the bottom of the well.