



Balthazar B is the world's last shy elegant young man. Born to riches in Paris and raised in lonely splendour, his life spreads to prep school in England. There he is befriended by the world's most beatific sinner, the noble little Beefy. And in holidays spent in Paris Balthazar B falls upon love and sorrow with his beautiful governess Miss Hortense, to lose her and live out lonely London years, waking finally to the green sunshine of Ireland and Trinity College. Here, reunited with Beefy, he is swept away to the high and low life of Dublin until their university careers are brought to an inglorious end. They return to London, there to take their tricky steps into marriage, Beefy in search of riches, Balthazar in search of love.

'Marvellous, as always, Donleavy's language ... embellishes incident piled on hilarious, marvellously invented incident – encounters with sly Trinity proctors, disportings, disappointments, scenes of domestic life and strife, sexual spectaculars, small joys and further sadnesses. It is Donleavy at his best, eloquent, roguish and at last at one with his world and the terrible sadness it contains.' – *Newsweek*

Four plays (*The Ginger Man*, *Fairy Tales of New York*, *A Singular Man*, *The Saddest Summer of Samuel S*) which demonstrate the dazzling wit and mercurial prose of a king among comic writers.

*The Ginger Man*

'A bawdy, blasphemous, rich, ragged, monstrous masterpiece' – *Daily Express*

*Fairy Tales of New York*

'A chain of theatrical pearls nourished by a master of comic dialogue' – Kenneth Tynan

*A Singular Man*

'One of the funniest and one of the saddest plays' – *The Times*

Cover design by John McConnell

Photograph of J. P. Donleavy by Mark Gerson

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