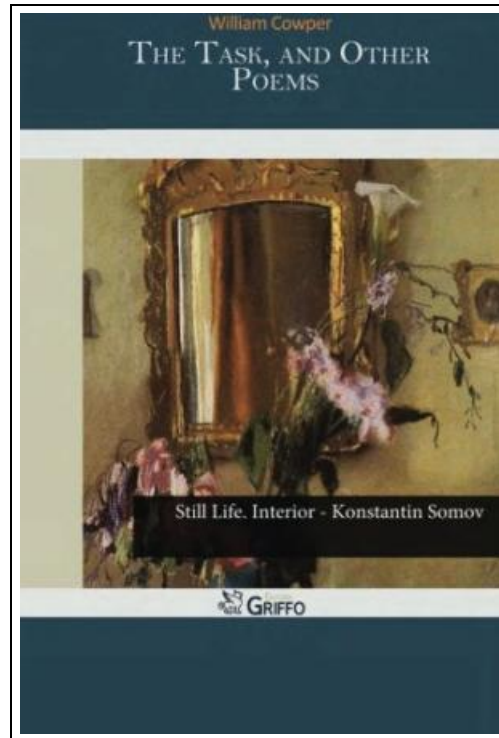


The Task, and Other Poems



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Reviews

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THE TASK, AND OTHER POEMS



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Createspace, United States, 2014. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 229 x 152 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****. [.]III., and Falstaff were the most popular of his day. He died suddenly in 1785, at the age of thirty-eight, and it was thus in the last year of his life that his power of recitation drew John Gilpin from obscurity and made it the nine days wonder of the town. Pictures of John Gilpin abounded in all forms. He figured on pocket-handkerchiefs. When the publisher asked for a few more pages to his volume of The Task, Cowper gave him as makeweights an Epistle to Joseph Hill, his Tirocinium, and, a little doubtfully, John Gilpin. So the book was published in June, 1785; was sought by many because it was by the author of John Gilpin, and at once won recognition. The preceding volume had not made Cowper famous. The Task at once gave him his place among the poets. Cowper s Task is to this day, except Wordsworth s Excursion, the best purely didactic poem in the English language. The Sofa stands only as a point of departure: -it suits a gouty limb; but as the poet is not gouty, he is up and off. He is off for a walk with Mrs. Unwin in the country about Olney. He dwells on the rural sights and rural sounds, taking first the inanimate sounds, then the animate. In muddy winter weather he walks alone, finds a solitary cottage, and draws from it comment upon the false sentiment of solitude. He describes the walk to the park at Weston Underwood, the prospect from the hilltop, touches upon his privilege in having a key of the gate, describes the avenues of trees, the wilderness, the grove, and the...



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