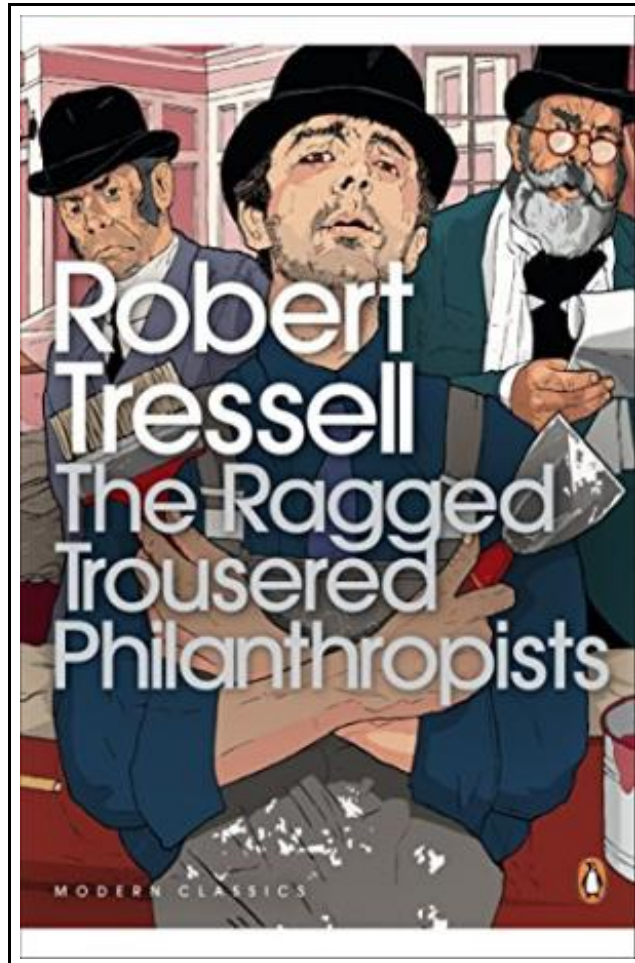


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Penguin Books Ltd, United Kingdom, 2004. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 190 x 126 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. A sustained attack on selfish capitalism, and a Socialist critique of Edwardian England's social inequality, Robert Tressell's *The Ragged Trousered Philanthropists* includes an introduction by Tristram Hunt in Penguin Modern Classics. *The Ragged Trousered Philanthropists* tells the story of a group of working men who are joined one day by Frank Owen, a journeyman-prophet with a vision of a just society. Indicting the philanthropy of the working class, who toil solely for the benefit of their masters, and initiating them into the secrets of the Great Money Trick which alienates them from their labour, Owen's spirited attacks on the greed and dishonesty of the capitalist system rouse his fellow men from their political quietism. A masterpiece of wit and political passion and one of the most authentic novels of English working class life ever written. Robert Noonan (1870-1911) who took the pseudonym Tressell from the trestle table of the sort used by decorators, was an Irish housepainter who came to England from South Africa in 1900. He settled in Hastings, where he worked as a signwriter for various building firms. Tressell never lived to see his book in print; he died of tuberculosis in 1911, aged forty. If you enjoyed *The Ragged Trousered Philanthropists*, you might also like Jaroslav Hasek's *The Good Soldier Svejk*, available in Penguin Classics. Some books seem to batter their way to immortality against all odds, by sheer brute artistic strength, and high up in this curious and honourable company must be counted *The Ragged Trousered Philanthropists*. Robert Tressell's unfailing humour mixes with an unfailing rage and the two together make a truly Swiftian impact. (Evening Standard). A brilliant and very...



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