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Anthony Trollope

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Phineas Redux: An Introduction

Anthony Trollope was born on 24 April and attended both Harrow and Winchester schools. His family were poor and eventually were forced to move to Belgium, where his father died. His mother, Frances Trollope, supported the family through writing. Trollope began a life-long career in the civil service with a position as a clerk in the General Post Office in London — he is also credited with later introducing the pillar box. He published his first novel, The Macdermots of Ballycloran in , but his fourth novel, The Warden began the series of 'Barsetshire' novels for which he was to become best known.

This series of five novels featuring interconnecting characters spanned twenty years of Trollope's career as a novelist, as did the 'Palliser' series. He wrong over 47 novels in total, as well as short stories, biographies, travel books and his own autobiography, which was published posthumously in Trollope resigned from the Post Office in and stood for Parliament as a Liberal, though he was not elected. He died on 6 December For the latest books, recommendations, author interviews and more.

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On his way home Bonteen is murdered. As in a nightmare, Phineas is slowly, almost incredibly, drawn into the web of suspicion; eventually to find himself in the dock, charged with murder. Jealousy, too, inspires Madame Max Goesler, the wealthy and enigmatic widow who secretly loves Phineas. It is her persistence and ingenuity which, in the nick of time, finds the evidence that acquits him. Unnerved by his ordeal, Phineas leaves active politics altogether: and marries the beautiful Madame Max. Justice is served. The "weakest" link in The Palliser series to date. The delivery of the story is marred by a lot of repetition from the previous novels, Phineas Finn and The Eustace Diamonds. However it is the female characters who again take centre stage and shine through. There is the well intentioned Lady Glencora Palliser through to the delightfully notorious Lizzie Eustace, each are scene stealers and the main character Phineas is bland in comparison.

As you can tell, not a favourite in what has been up to no The "weakest" link in The Palliser series to date. As you can tell, not a favourite in what has been up to now a sterling series that has kept me coming back for more. Phineas is back--one of my favourite characters in the Palliser novels. His first wife, Mary, who I was rooting for

him to marry all along in Phineas Finn, dies in the first chapter, but all is not lost for Phineas although he is most certainly grieving for his wife and infant child. There are some interesting new characters along with old favourites and a few nefarious repeats such as that nasty journalist Snipes is it? There is insightful character development, romance, there is politics, there is humour, there is conflict—in essense there are are all of the things that make the Palliser novels, even though I didn't like this one quite as much as the previous three but certainly loved parts of it.

I wasn't as keen on the secondary romance story there are generally two in each of these, at least in the first four book and in no way could feel any empathy for those trying to preserve foxes only to engage in the fox hunt. While I am not averse to hunting for food if the animal is not endangered, I disagree with hunting for sport. Perhaps it's partly because the surname Maule made it difficult for me to conjure up a handsome, lovable lazy gentleman who could win the heart of one of Planty's poor first cousins, although it was easy to see how obnoxious her other suitor was. My third reading of Phineas Finn and Phineas Redux confirms my belief that these novels show Trollope to be at the height of his craft.

Phineas Finn, Phineas Finn! What would you do without a bevy of beauties to guide you and love you? In the end, you made up your own mind, though. Dec 16, Hilary rated it really liked it. I have only read two of the Pallisers series and not in order. The books are quite stand-alone though by the time I came to the end of Redux I realised that I had been better reading the series straight through as there were more and more references back to previous characters with whom I had not been acquainted. Phew - well that took forever I started this book months ago to check back in with the Palliser series, which I am slowly working my way through. I have found this series much slower than the Barsetshire novels, which were much more Austenesque as a wise book friend observed, partly due to all the parliamentary politics - being an American I'm not terribly familiar with that system, but heck even our system is as clear as mud and getting weirder by the day.

I also managed to forget the book Phew - well that took forever I also managed to forget the book at the beach, so I switched between the Audible recording and the e-book - both were excellent, and I can highly recommend Timothy West as a reader. He makes the pages fly by and is delightful for very long drives and while knitting! What really irked me with this series is the minutiae of this law or that law and the subsequent debates around the issues; they may have been hot topics back in the Victorian age, and I know these books were serialised so had to be timely for a contemporary audience and hence the heft and page count! Trollope also wastes his time with a superfluous love triangle that while very entertaining frankly moreso than all the time spent in the House of Commons, and much more reminiscent of the Barsetshire novels with their meditations on love, money and property and their vital role in Victorian marriages, really does nothing to forward the adventures and fortunes of our hero Phineas, as he is only peripherally even familiar with the three star-crossed lovers.

I can only assume Trollope was inevitably drawn back to the English country setting of hunting and good families and matchmaking that served him so well, and he

portrays flawlessly with gentle yet perceptively sharp humor. Spooner and the pretty-faced empty suit Gerard Maule as they navigate the choppy waters of courtship with money and property vs. So as much as I enjoyed their romance, it truly was superfluous to Phineas's story and a cruel distraction. There, those are my frustrations - now for what I loved about this novel. Up to halfway through this novel, I still wasn't really sure how I felt about Phineas; I felt slightly ridiculous having spent so much time with him! Madam Max and Violet are portrayed most sympathetically or should I say, favorably, as women to admire and emulate - the first, strong, charming, beautiful and wise, the second beautiful, loving friend, devoted and idealized wife and sister-in-law.

Lady Laura becomes gradually unhinged from her miserable marriage, the loneliness of isolation from the society she loves due to her separation from her overly religious, rigid and unloving husband, and bitterness over her loss of Phineas' love. Glencora is played almost totally for comic relief with her boundless energy and desire to interfere and tidy up the lives of all the lesser mortals who come within her orbit - a truly delightful character! I can't wait to further my acquaintance with her and her husband, an increasingly fascinating character emerging there. As for Phineas, he and Lady Laura are the two characters most altered; she for the reasons stated above, and he for his unjust arrest and trial for a murder he didn't commit which also drags on waaaaay too long. Trollope writes very touchingly about the emotional and mental effect of Finn's incarceration and the humiliation of standing in the dock, day after day, stared at like an animal in a cage, wondering which of the friends who come to support him really believe in his innocence.

Our hero is forced to question all that he thought he held dear and desired - wealth, position in society, power in government; his breakdown is truly heartbreaking to read, and his emergence at the end of this long, dark night of the soul and "choosing freedom" as Madam Max so eloquently calls it, is redemptive. Altogether a wonderful, delightful, enthralling read providing brilliant insight into Victorian upperclass society and power politics, as all of his books I've read have been - even the ones that could be shaved of a couple of hundred pages - but oh, the supplementary characters and storylines he stuffs into those superfluous pages - pure gold! View 2 comments.

Feb 24, Susan rated it it was amazing Shelves: re-read. I'm slowly rereading Trollope's political novels and just finished 4, Phineas Redux. In the first Phineas book the likeable maybe one of Trollope's most likeable characters Irishman wins a seat in Parliament and makes his way quickly into the homes and political circles of the Liberal Party.

He falls in love--almost immediately--with Laura Standish who's the daughter of an Earl. She should have been male--she's that interested in politics and undertakes to make Phineas' career, but she marrie I'm slowly rereading Trollope's political novels and just finished 4, Phineas Redux. She should have been male--she's that interested in politics and undertakes to make Phineas' career, but she marries an elderly rich man,

Robert Kennedy a calculated move because she didn't love him. Phineas is heart-broken but immediately finds another woman to love who also marries someone else.

He gets involved in a political issue, though, where he has to act on his conscience

which means he has to leave the government and he can't afford to be only an MP no salary. So he goes back to Ireland and marries his childhood sweetheart who rather quickly dies in childbirth. Phineas Redux is about his second foray into politics. Likeable as ever, he still have limited means and, though, elected to Parliament, has to have a government post to make enough money to survive. But the gods are against him. Laura Kennedy has left her husband--who's tormenting her with his extreme religious practices--and he blames Phineas Finn whom Laura has discovered she really loves.

Phineas is over that but kind and compassionate and mets her whenever she requests to give the support and advice of a friend. But the salacious press gets wind of the story when Robert Kennedy makes public his efforts to "get his wife back" and blames Phineas Finn for her leaving, implying an affair. Laura has to leave the country with her father to avoid the law compelling her to go back to her husband. Phineas, the good friend as ever, acts as go between and is attacked by friend and foe, even to the extent that the leaders of the Party avoid picking him for government office. The political insights in this book, apart from the somewhat dated prose, could be written by today's political pundits.

It's both amusing and horrifying to realize that very little has changed Amusing too that Plantagenet Palliser sort of the central character--well his wife is maybe more central is angling all the time to convince Parliament to adopt a decimal currency--Trollope never knew it would ever be accomplished--in fact the first time I went to London counted out 10 pennies for some tourist attraction that cost a shilling, the ticket taker just glared at me and held out his hand until I sheepishly remembered there were 12 pennies in a shilling Phineas quarrels with one of the party hacks who's most critical on moral grounds of his supposed affair with Lady Laura and the next thing we know Phineas is in Newgate accused of murder and in danger of being hung with only circumstantial evidence against him.

Very frustrating--one wants finger prints, blood types, DNA And I haven't even mentioned Madam Goesler rich, dark-haired, young and somewhat mysterious Viennese widow who's taken up by Glencora Palliser and becomes a fixture in Liberal political circles Trollope's world is simple compared to ours but his analysis is far from simple. It's psychologically convincing. His political insights are perfect.

And Phineas is a most delightful character. I continue to thoroughly enjoy this series. In this case, thoroughly excludes the several pages devoted to the debate in the House of Commons having to do with the disestablishment of the Church of England. One character remarked to her friend, who was a Member of Parliament: What a pleasure! One must be very hard driven for amusement! Fortunately, that section is only about 10 pages long, although leading up to it takes I continue to thoroughly enjoy this series. Fortunately, that section is only about 10 pages long, although leading up to it takes a few more.

As you see, Trollope retained his sense of humor. Spooner of Spoon Hall stands out. I assume spooning has meant the same for decades, and Mr. Spooner definitely had a love interest. Chassanbrass was a defense lawyer. Trollope continues his excellent job of characterization - I thought as well in this as in any I have read so far - even while

he has the obvious caricatures. At one point I thought to myself that there are things that happen that are completely unexpected, there are things you know will happen but haven't an idea how Trollope will pull it off, and then there are things you hope will happen, but despair that Trollope will not allow them to be.

Other than the Church disestablishment part would he have benefited from a good editor? This could be read as a stand alone novel because Trollope provides as much backstory as you need to understand the current events. However, you will be disappointed if you read this before either Phineas Finn or The Eustace Diamonds as it contains numerous spoilers from those two novels.

Jul 23, Joe Kraus rated it liked it Shelves: classics. As it is, I think this one has a lot of the virtues of The Eustace Diamonds, but it has them more subtly. In terms of virtues, this novel deals with a character who — unlike Lizzie Eustace — is generally a decent sort. We know Phineas from his earlier novel, and there he was a pure innocent, a man sinned against rather than sinning. Thanks to his handsome six-foot frame and aw-shucks nature, all women are drawn to him, and they provide a counter-pressure against the machinations of untrustworthy political frenemies.

As we meet Phineas again, though, things have changed. In what I feared, and in what strikes me as simply lazy, Trollope frees him from his first-novel-ending marriage by having her die in childbirth. In a stroke, then, Trollope restores him as a protagonist capable of getting caught in the turmoil of Parliament. Women still love Phineas, but the shine is a little tarnished. As a consequence, she has been exiled to the continent and she thinks of herself as grown old before her time. Then, and it feels abrupt — as if Trollope knew he had to shake everything up — Phineas is accused of murder.

The circumstantial evidence is all against him; he quarreled with the victim, wore a coat exactly like a witness described, and owned a weapon that matched the rudimentary forensics. That blatant anti-Semitism — trust me, Emilius is identified as a Jew a good two dozen times — comes without apology. Much of London was willing to see him die, and even some of his friends who stood by him, most prominently his best friend Lord Chiltern, took it for granted that he was guilty. He is, at last, no longer the backwater read Irish naif who charmed so many with his innocence. Laura represents his one-time ideal, marriage to a woman of pedigree, title and wealth. The other represents, at least on the surface, only analogous wealth.

Remember, Max once asked him to marry her, and she is herself tarnished by the fact that she has her wealth from being the widow of a Jew herself. Laura, as ideal, has lost her youth, therefore her beauty, and therefore what she once represented to Phineas. She has become to him a kind of sister — as he says on multiple occasions. When he chooses the still beautiful Max, then, he makes a conscious decision to settle for a lesser happiness than what he once imagined. She has a powerful parting speech to him, and then she tells him they can never see each other again. I love that moment for the way it shows her pain — the pain of a woman in a world where she can exercise her will only through the men in her life and, as a consequence of her terrible mistake in marrying Kennedy, is forever compromised.

He wanted to rise in the world, but his own aging has dimmed his potential. He could

have had anything, but never everything. In finally — after two chapter volumes dedicated to him — making his choice, he makes his world real, but he makes it smaller as well. Newly widowed, he decides to plunge back into politics by accepting an offer to run for a seat in the House of Commons. Yet Finn's luck soon deserts him, as his re entry is not rewarded with office and the income he needs to survive.

Moreover, he suffers from the attacks of two new enemies --and he soon finds himself on trial for the most heinous of crimes. One of Trollope's great strengths as a writer is his ability to build a world consisting of a diverse array of characters, and that strength is on display here. Nearly the full cast from his previous novels in the series makes an appearance, even if a couple of them feel shoehorned in. Yet Trollope's effort to derive some drama from putting his central character on trial doesn't work as well as it should. Perhaps aware of his limitations, he avoids any real mystery as to the perpetrator of the crime for which his central character stands trial, and it's resolution seems more melodramatic than earned. Still, for all its faults and the padding of the last hundred pages it is still an enjoyable novel, one that offers more of the continuing events of Trollope's cast of political adventurers and social butterflies.

You just can't go wrong with Trollope. Another excellent read following Phineas Finn. I feel sad to finish as it's been my read for the past two weeks. I loved it! Phineas Redux is over pages long, yet, it is a page turner because of the well-developed characters and his smooth polished style. This book is the final in the Palliser series, so there was plenty of time to develop characters, scenes of romance, drama and politics. It occurred to this reviewer at one point that Trollope probably invented the modern-day soap opera. There are many issues developed among many characters. They rang from love stories, political intrigue and of course, the Fox Hunt and issues surrounding the hunt like horses, fox, land use, poachers, etc.

Trollope keeps you running back and forth, like the soap operas developing each character and scenario with great skill over long stretches. The hero of this tale is Phineas Finn, and a case can be made that Mr. Finn is the alter ego of Anthony Trollope. Both were barristers, both stood for a Parliamentary seat, both were from the landed gentry, yet, monetarily poor. There are many other things about this fiction that could be considered biographical. Of course, Mr. An interesting feature is Trollope's depiction the female characters, the older married woman of Phineas Redux exhibit deep insight and sensitivity.

They dominate their husbands no matter how high the husbands station in life. It seems that these ladies run the country, by way of influence on their husbands, whether Duke or Cabinet minister all are subject to the manipulation of their spouse.

Phineas Redux - Wikipedia

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Professional jealousy makes his rival Bonteen into an enemy — jealousy at the Irish puppy whose career is moving altogether too quickly upwards. One night there is a public quarrel at the Club. On his way home Bonteen is murdered. As in a nightmare, Phineas is slowly, almost incredibly, drawn into the web of suspicion; eventually to find himself in the dock, charged with murder. Jealousy, too, inspires Madame Max Goesler, the wealthy and enigmatic widow who secretly loves Phineas. No report was made to the police but relatives took him, completely mad, back to Loughlinter, where he soon died. At the death of the old Duke, Plantagenet Palliser succeeded to his honors.

The Daubeny government fell, Mr. Bonteen had expected to become Chancellor of the Exchequer, and was angry and disappointed when asked to take the Presidency of the Board of Trade. There had never been friendship between Phineas and Mr. Bonteen, and one night, after a quarrel at their club, Mr. Bonteen was murdered. Bonteen was attempting to discover evidence that his marriage to Lizzie was bigamous, but Emilius had, seemingly, a perfect alibi.

Phineas Redux - Anthony Trollope - Oxford University Press

The affair is hushed up: Kennedy sinks rapidly into total madness, and dies. But worse is to follow. Phineas Redux is a corrosive cat's cradle of different shades of jealousy: and Phineas is the focus of most of them. Professional jealousy makes his rival Bonteen into an enemy — jealousy at the Irish puppy whose career is moving altogether too quickly upwards. One night there is a public quarrel at the Club. On his way home Bonteen is murdered. As Finn had been considered the most promising of the younger set, he is encouraged to stand for Parliament again, and he takes the risk of giving up his salaried position. Returning to London, he renews his acquaintance with the wealthy widow Madame Max Goesler.

In the past, she had offered to marry him and had been gently turned down; after an awkward first encounter, they renew their friendship. In the political arena, Finn loses the election by a narrow margin, but his luck does not desert him. On appeal, it is found that his opponent had bribed some of the voters; their disqualification is enough to give Finn the victory.

He makes an enemy within his own party. Mr Bonteen makes disparaging remarks about his political trustworthiness, referring to an incident, described in Phineas Finn, when Finn voted with his conscience rather than his party. The conflict spirals out of control when neither man will back down, and they become bitter foes. When Bonteen is murdered, suspicion falls on two men. At Lady Eustace's urging, Bonteen had traveled to Prague and found evidence that Emilius was still married to another woman when he wedded Lady Eustace, thus annulling the marriage and safeguarding her wealth. The other suspect is Finn. He and Bonteen had been seen to quarrel publicly on the night of the murder and all the circumstantial evidence points to him, while Emilius did not have a key to exit his lodgings with. Finn therefore is brought to trial. Not unexpectedly, the murder of one Member of Parliament allegedly by another quickly becomes the sensation of all England.

Those in power had implied that were he again in Parliament, he would be taken into the government. He accordingly contested the borough of Tankerville and was elected. Lady Laura Kennedy was still in Dresden, where Phineas visited her, and at her request had an interview with her husband when he returned to London. No report was made to the police but relatives took him, completely mad, back to Loughlinter, where he soon died. At the death of the old Duke, Plantagenet Palliser succeeded to his honors. The Daubeny government fell, Mr.

Bonteen had expected to become Chancellor of the Exchequer, and was angry and disappointed when asked to take the Presidency of the Board of Trade. There had never been friendship between Phineas and Mr.