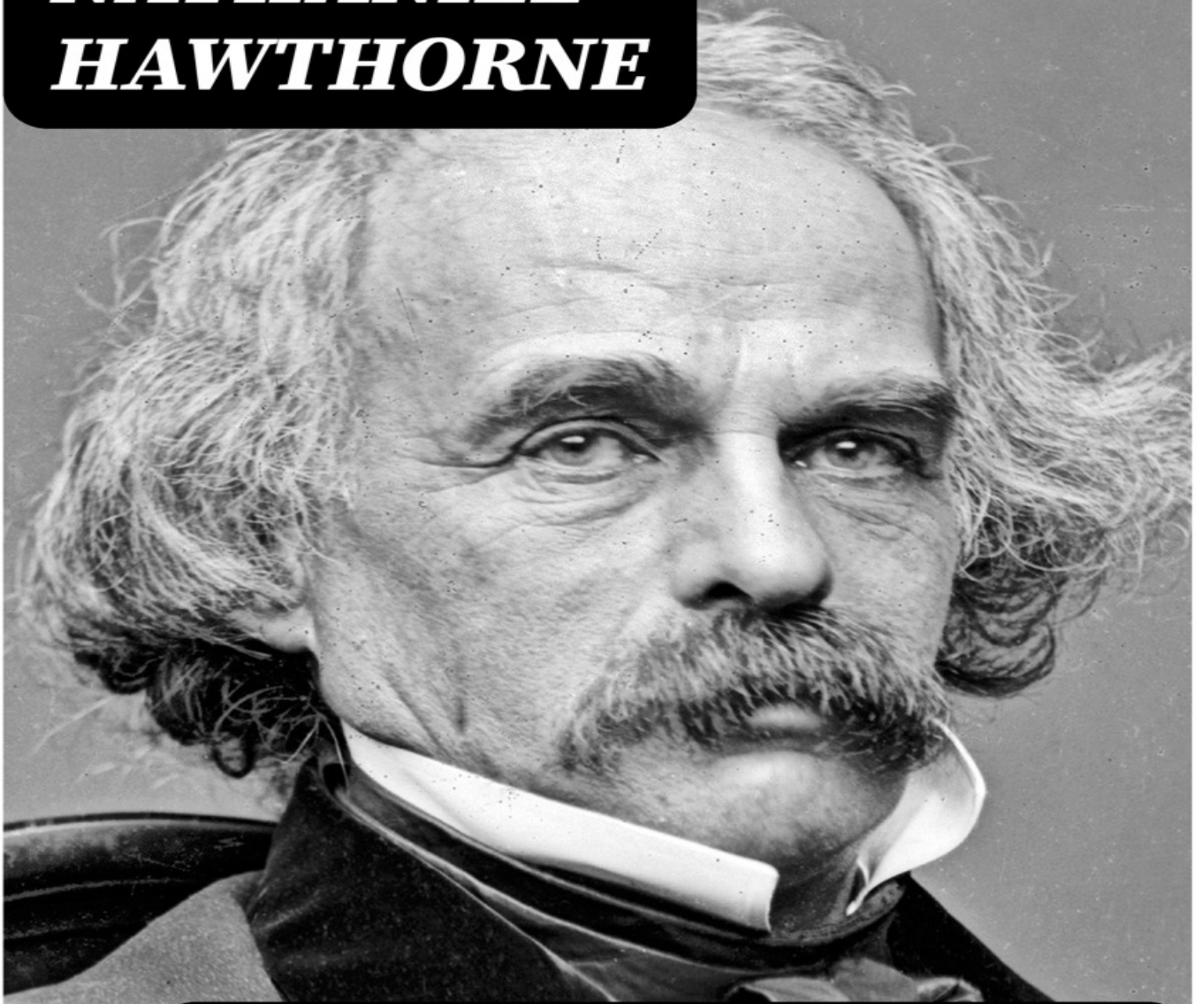
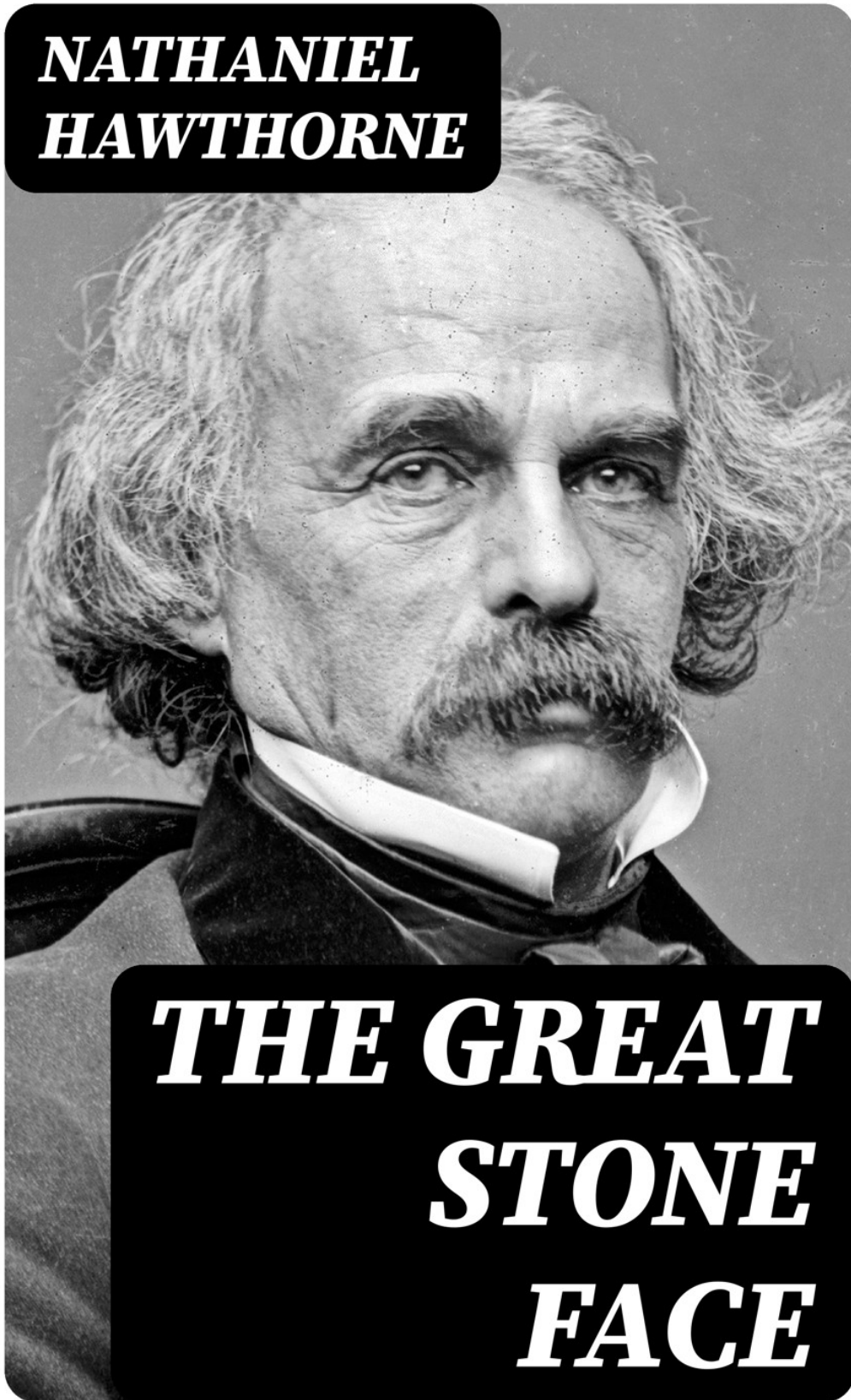


***NATHANIEL
HAWTHORNE***



***THE GREAT
STONE
FACE***

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Nathaniel Hawthorne

The Great Stone Face

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- "[The Great Stone Face](#)" in *Tales of the White Hills, and sketches*, 1889
- "[The Great Stone Face](#)" in *Little Masterpieces - Nathaniel Hawthorne*, 1897

For other versions of this work, see [The Great Stone Face](#).

THE GREAT STONE FACE.

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ONE afternoon, when the sun was going down, a mother and her little boy sat at the door of their cottage, talking about the Great Stone Face. They had but to lift their eyes, and there it was plainly to be seen, though miles away, with the sunshine brightening all its features.

And what was the Great Stone Face?

Embosomed amongst a family of lofty mountains, there was a valley so spacious that it contained many thousand inhabitants. Some of these good people dwelt in log-huts, with the black forest all around them, on the steep and difficult hill-sides. Others had their homes in comfortable farm-houses, and cultivated the rich soil on the gentle slopes or level surfaces of the valley. Others, again, were congregated into populous villages, where some wild, highland rivulet, tumbling down from its birthplace in the upper mountain region, had been caught and tamed by human cunning, and compelled to turn the machinery of cotton-factories. The inhabitants of this valley, in short, were numerous, and of many modes of life. But all of them, grown people and children, had a kind of