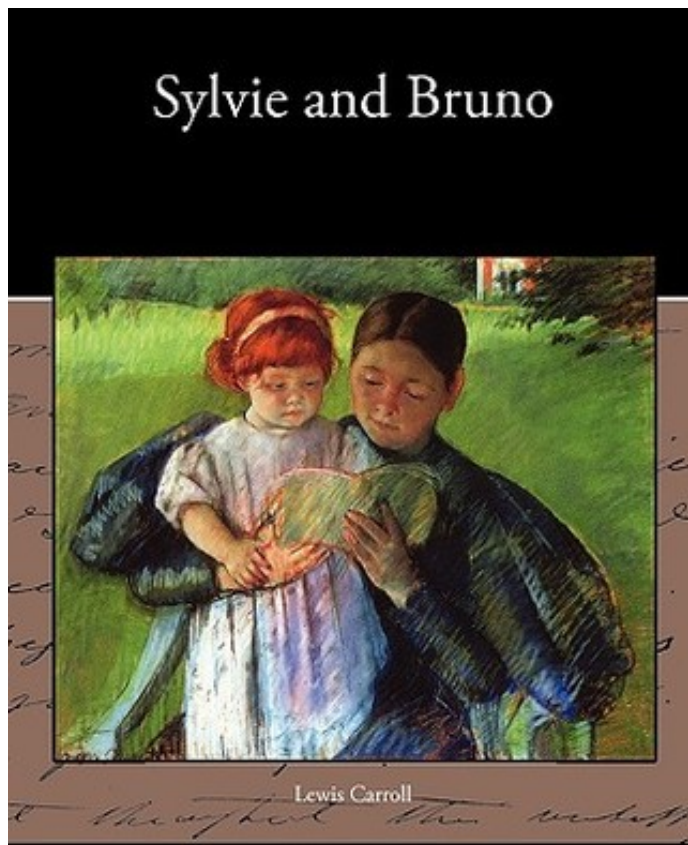

Lewis Carroll

Sylvie and Bruno



Title: Sylvie and Bruno

Author: Lewis Carroll

Format: Paperback

Language: English

Pages: 200

Publisher: Book Jungle, 1265270400

ISBN: 1438536445

Format: PDF / Kindle / ePub

Size: 8.7 MB

Download: allowed

Description

Lewis Carroll is known for his delightful children's tales. He is perhaps best known for his classics, *Alice in Wonderland* and *Alice Through the Looking Glass*. Carroll's fantasy style and use of word play has delighted children and readers of all ages and has influenced many artists. In *Sylvie and Bruno* two little children meet adventure in such places as Dogland, Outland, and Elfland. The Table of Contents includes Less bread! more taxes! -- L'Amie inconnue -- Birthday-presents -- Cunnig conspiracy -- Beggar's palace -- Magic locket -- Baron's embassy -- Ride on a lion - Jester and a bear -- Other professor -- Peter and Paul - Musical gardener -- Visit to Dogland -- Fairy-Sylvie -- Bruno's revenge -- Changed Crocodile -- Three Badgers - Queer street, number forty -- How to make a Phlizz -- Light come, light go -- Through the ivory door -- Crossing the line -- Outlandish watch -- Frogs' birthday-treat - Looking Eastward.

Insightful reviews

Noga: Can't decide. Some parts were exhausting and boring, others psychedelic and intriguing. But mostly, I wanted to finish it already. I loved both Alice stories and *The Hunting of the Snark*, but this one disappointed.

Bettie?:

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Opening: **LESS BREAD! MORE TAXES! —and then all the people cheered again, and one man, who was more excited than the rest, flung his hat high into the air, and shouted (as well as I could make out) “Who roar for the Sub-Warden?” Everybody roared, but whether it was for the Sub-Warden, or not, did not clearly appear: some were shouting “Bread!” and some “Taxes!”, but no one seemed to know what it was they really wanted.**

All this I saw from the open window of the Warden’s breakfast-saloon, looking across the shoulder of the Lord Chancellor, who had sprung to his feet the moment the shouting began, almost as if he had been expecting it, and had rushed to the window which commanded the best view of the market-place.

“What can it all mean?” he kept repeating to himself, as, with his hands clasped behind him, and his gown floating in the air, he paced rapidly up and down the room. “I never heard such shouting before—and at this time of the morning, too! And with such unanimity! Doesn’t it strike you as very remarkable?”

Katie: Favorite Quotes:

"This species of literature has received the very appropriate name of 'paddling'- which might fitly be defined as 'that which all can write and none can read.'"

"Perhaps the hardest thing in all literature is to write anything original."

"If Shakespeare was not inspired, one may well doubt if any man ever was"

"If a man finds himself haunted by evil desires and unholy images... let him commit to memory passages of Scripture, or passages from the best writers in verse or prose. Let him store his mind with these, as safeguards to repeat when he lies awake in some restless night, or when despairing imaginations, or gloomy, suicidal thoughts beset him. Let these be to him the sword, turning everywhere to keep the way of the Garden of Life from the intrusion of profaner footsteps."

"The safest rule is that we should not dare to live in any scene in which we dare not die."

"She is the Heroine. And I am one of those subordinate characters that only turn up when needed for the development of her destiny, and whose final appearance is outside the church, waiting to greet the Happy Pair!"

"And then you'll find out what Pleasure is like- the Pleasure we all seek so madly, and enjoy so mournfully!"

" 'Idiot indeed!' cried the Lady. 'He's no more an idiot than I am!' 'You're right my dear,' the Vice Warden soothingly replied. 'He isn't indeed!' "

"Nothing can be heavy you know, except by trying to fall, and being prevented from doing so."

"The Other Professor was seated at a table with a large book open before him, on which his forehead was resting: he had clasped his arms round the book, and was snoring heavily. 'He usually reads like that' the Professor remarked, 'when the book's very interesting: and then sometimes it's very difficult to get him to attend!'"

"Oh yes! The Banquet comes first of course. People never enjoy Abstract Science, you know, when they're ravenous with hunger."

" 'For the sake of argument, let us assume that it begins on A flat.' And he struck the note in question. 'La la la! I think that's within an octave of it.' "

"The words were severe enough, but I am of opinion that, when you are really anxious to impress a criminal with a sense of his guilt, you ought not to pronounce the sentence with your lips quite close to his cheek- since a kiss at the end of it, however accidental, weakens the effect terribly."

"His Majesty calmly wagged the Royal tail. 'It's quite a relief getting away from that Palace now and then! Royal Dogs have a dull life of it, I can tell you! Would you mind' (this to Sylvie in a low voice, and looking a little shy and embarrassed" 'would you mind the trouble of just throwing that stick for me to fetch'?"

"Yet is it wise to leave in unasked? You must not waste your life upon an 'if!'"

"She was so delicate and graceful that she quite seemed to belong to the place, almost as if she were one of the flowers. I may tell you, besides, that she had no wings (I don't believe in Fairies with wings), and that she had quantities of long brown hair and large earnest brown eyes, and then I shall have done all I can to give you an idea of her."

"You know I am very learned in Natural History (for instance, I can always tell kittens from chickens at one glance)"

"Why is it we always begin by asking little children their names? Is it because we fancy a name will help to make them a little bigger? You never thought of asking a real large man his name, now, did you?"

"This set me thinking of the various queer things we call 'an honour' in this world, but which, after all, haven't a bit more honour in them than what Bruno enjoyed, when he took the King a glass of cider."

"No, these were real people. When they looked pleased, it meant that they were pleased: and when Lady Muriel said, with a bright smile, 'I'm very glad to see you again!', I knew that it was true."

"There's nothing a well-regulated child hates so much as regularity. I believe a really healthy boy would thoroughly enjoy Greek Grammer- if only he might stand on his head to learn it!"

"No, the prayers were prayed, the lessons were read, and best of all, the sermon was talked; and I found myself repeating as we left the church, the words of Jacob, when he 'awaked out of his sleep,' 'Surely the Lord is in this place! This is none other but the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.'"

"Talk of Original Sin! Can you have a stronger proof of the Original Goodness there must be in this nation, than the fact that Religion has been preached to us, as a commercial speculation, for a century, and that we still believe in a God?"

"There are some things one says in life- as well as things one does-- which come automatically, by reflex action, as the physiologists say. Closing one's eyelids, when something seems to be flying into the eye, is one of those actions, and saying, "May I carry the little girl up the stairs?" was another. It wasn't that any thought of offering help occurred to me, and that then I spoke: the first imitation I had, of being likely to make that offer, was the sound of my own voice, and the discovery that the offer had been made."

"though waters wide between us glide, Our lives are warm and near: No distance parts two faithful hearts-Two hearts that love so dear: And I will trust my sailor lad, For ever and a day, To think of me-to think of me-When he is far away!"

"That are a good plan! I thinks my foot would come quite unhurted, if I eated a blackberry-two or three blackberries-six or seven blackberries."

"Oh my darling, my darling! And God meant your life to be so beautiful!"

"A child's sorrow is violent, but short."

"Did you ever make real life into a drama? I've often amused myself that way. Consider this platform as our stage. Good entrances and exits on both sides you see. Capital background scene: real engine moving up and down. All this bustle, and people passing to and fro, must have been most carefully rehearsed! How naturally they do it! With never a glance at the audience! And every grouping is quite fresh, you see. No repetition!"

"To most of us Life and its pleasures seem like a mine that is nearly worked out."

Life is indeed a drama; a drama with but few encores-and no bouquets! We spend one half of it in regretting the things we did in the other half!"

"Whatever is worth doing is worth doing well."

"The heart knoweth its own bitterness. I never understood those words till now."

"It seemed better to wait till Time-that gentle healer of our bitterest sorrows-should have helped him to recover from the first shock of the disappointment that had blighted his life."

"So now, when you hear the Frogs croaking in a particularly melancholy way, you may be sure they're trying to guess Bruno's next Shakespeare 'Bit.' Isn't that interesting?"

"There was a manly vigour in his tone that convinced me he was wrestling with, and triumphing over, the great sorrow that had so nearly wrecked his life-and that, on the stepping-stone of his dead self, he would surely rise to higher things!"

Lady Muriel was perfectly radiant with happiness: sadness could not live in the light of such a smile."

"Shall we, 'the swarm that in the noontide beam were born,' feeling in ourselves the power to direct, this way or that, the forces of Nature-of Nature, of which we form so trivial a part-shall we, in our boundless arrogance, in our pitiful conceit, deny that power to the Ancient of Days? Saying to our Creator, 'Thus far and no further. Thou madest, but thou canst not rule!'"

"If you would know the power of prayer-in anything and everything that Man can need-try it. Ask, and it shall be given you. I-have tried it. I know that God answers prayer!"

"The West is the fitting tomb for all the sorrow and the sighing, all the errors and the follies of the Past: for all its withered Hopes and all its buried Loves! From the East comes new strength, new ambition, new Hope, new Life, new Love! Look Eastward! Aye, look Eastward!"

"So may it be for him, and me, and all of us! All that is evil, and dead, and hopeless, fading with the Night that is past! All that is good, and living, and hopeful, rising with the dawn of Day!"

"Fading, with the Night, the clouds of ignorance, and the deadly blight of sin, and the silent tears of sorrow: and ever rising, higher, higher, with the Day, the radiant dawn of knowledge, and the sweet breath of purity, and the throb of a world's ecstasy! Look Eastward!"

"Fading, with the Night, the memory of a dead love, and the withered leaves of a blighted hope, and the sickly repinings and moody regrets that numb the best energies of the soul: and rising, broadening, rolling upward like a living flood, the manly resolve, and the dauntless will, and the heavenward gaze of faith—the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen! Look Eastward! Aye, look Eastward!"

Yupa: Non ci siamo...Diversi passaggi notevoli, se non geniali, sepolti e soffocati da una valanga di divagazioni inutili, tedianti e anche parecchio moralistiche e fin troppo legate all'attualità del pace (obiettivamente, cosa me ne può importare delle polemiche sulla sobrietà delle messe protestanti di superb Ottocento?!).Disordinato e confuso, si fa almeno leggere velocemente...Ahimé, quanto si nota come l'assenza di Alice abbia tanto nuociuto all'ispirazione del reverendo Dodgson! :-)

Johnny: A lesser recognized paintings than his Alice in Wonderland books, Sylvie and Bruno is one other of these unusual children's tales from Lewis Carroll that makes one ponder whether the Rev. Charles L. Dodgson's tales were, indeed, written for children. To be sure, the humor is usually as "painful" as "punful" as while a professor says, "The smaller animal should visit mattress at once" and he's requested why the kid had to do so. "Because he can't cross at twice." (p. 216 in my publication version) Or again, while one baby is defined as being as "busy because the day is long!" and one other is called, "busy because the day is short." (p. 220 eBook) I relatively beloved the professor's excuse that he couldn't do anything his scholars sought after him to do simply because he had "...left off at a comma, and it's so awkward now not understanding how the sentence finishes!" (p. 236) there's a rabbit that leads the 2 kids down a protracted staircase, a mushroom that enlarges to develop into an opulent level for a fairy girl, and a bunch of mysterious scenes seen from the viewpoint of the first-person narrator who is, in turn, both invisible or inconsequential adequate to not be spotted by means of the characters basically story.Sylvie and Bruno starts as an absurd yet "intriguing" conspiracy tale set in a myth medieval kingdom. it's a country the place the liable chief packs up and leaves his relatives to stand the treasonous but incompetent conspiracy to take over the dominion and set up an formidable sibling as Emperor in his brother's stead. Amazingly, or maybe no longer so amazingly seeing that this can be a Lewis Carroll story, the "responsible" chief has taken himself off to Fairyland (which looks used interchangeably with Elfland) and gives the kids a mystical entryway into that nation the place they sometimes break out the harsh occasions taking place of their lives due to his abdication of responsibility. Sound confusing? It's much more so. The narrator isn't "quite" within the story. He slips among a believable model of fact and this absurd medieval global simply or even follows the youngsters into this different global in the different world. parts of the segues among genuine world, different world, and faerie international appear like hallucinations attributable to medicines (As if Carroll hasn't been a vintage textual content for druggies for over a century—even 50 years ago, we had "White Rabbit" from Jefferson plane the place photos from Carroll's opus reminded us that one

capsule makes you greater and one tablet makes you small.) or a few type of waking dreams. As with the opposite works by way of Dodgson, there are various foolish poems—one of which inventively explains the assumption of borrowing from Peter to pay Paul. it appears Peter tried to borrow 50 kilos from a “friend” named Paul. To do so, he signed a promissory notice to pay off the personal loan on a definite day, but if he attempted to get the promised 50 pounds, Paul might declare that it used to be inconvenient to mortgage it on that day. So, Peter by no means really will get the 50 pounds, yet spends the remainder of his existence paying off the debt. the main verse is: Said Peter ‘Though i can’t sound The depths of this type of guy as you, Yet on your personality I’ve found An inconsistency or two. You appear to have lengthy years to spare When there’s a promise to fulfil: And but how punctual you were In calling with that little bill!’ (p. 212) My favourite personality within the e-book is the Gardener. initially blush, he doesn’t appear so bright, but if you learn the songs he sings, that he’s the one person who turns out to grasp what’s occurring and his verses provide the disarming candidness of a child: “He proposal he observed a Banker’s Clerk Descending from the bus: He seemed again, and located it was A Hippopotamus: ‘If this could remain to dine,’ he said, ‘There won’t be mutch (sic) for us!’” (p. 137) as well as vacationing Fairyland, the youngsters additionally stopover at Dogland (I believe the “nerds” had their “furries” in Dodgson’s day, as well—grin) the place i used to be shocked via the youngsters (the eponymous Sylvie and Bruno) refusing to offer their names simply because “We wish them ourselves.” (p. 242) And it’s almost immediately after a trip to Dogland and Fairyland that the inevitable logical challenge arises. on account that Dodgson wrote a number of treatises on logic, this isn’t mind-blowing for him to satirize such debates. yet instantly after the “logical” debate, one of many characters within the “real world” of the atmosphere complains that society picnics supply all too many possibilities for inane questions on typical good looks and ancient ruins. As a result, one personality laments: “Why may still lifestyles be one lengthy Catechism?” this can be by means of a discourse on paintings feedback that turns out greatly to use to online game and picture criticism, as well. a personality asks if one other has ever recognized a immodest individual to compliment a picture. “The something he dreads (next not to being noticed) is to be proved fallible! in the event you as soon as compliment a picture, your personality for infallibility hangs via a thread.” (p. 328) i love that! It explains a lot. I additionally like Dodgson’s slandering of good judgment with references to “prim Misses,” “Delusions” rather than deductions, and a “Sillygism” rather than syllogism. (p. 355) I additionally enjoyed convinced words which appeared extra musical than the songs inserted through the author. i admire “a diminuendo sequence of repetitions” (p. 410) and the interaction among the narrator and an Earl while the narrator defined lifestyles as “like a mine that’s approximately labored out” and the Earl spoke back that “it is just the Overture that’s ended!” (p. 460) I additionally beloved his description of a child’s view of a worship provider as a “Wilderness of Zin” (p. 534) as within the King James nomenclature for one of many deserts traversed after the Exodus. despite the positive writing and bright mind’s eye expressed in Sylvie and Bruno, I didn’t fairly get pleasure from it. The plot doesn’t quite achieve a climax and it’s tough to inform no matter if the significance of the tale used to be to be present in the “real world” or “imaginary world” aspects. have been the youngsters of the imaginary international to be pointed out with the characters within the actual world? It wasn’t clear. What was once the destiny of the youngsters within the imaginary world? It wasn’t clear. was once there ever any justice if you perpetrated the conspiracy? It wasn’t transparent to me. As a result, i stopped this publication with a few dissatisfaction. If the adventure is all, it used to be nice. If one is seeking a few solution to the narrative, Sylvie and

Bruno is sort of lacking.

Aaron: This used to be very excellent. I believe it truly is Lewis Carroll at his best. Yes, larger than the Alice sequence placed together. This tale certainly has a hearty dose of what's fact and what's fantasy/dream. A few tales can over-react with that factor yet this is often perfect. And while those worlds collide there seems concord to it. It certainly is considered one of his extra church orientated tales in addition to his best. This, and Sylvie and Bruno Concluded

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