
Anonymous

Vida De Lazarillo De Tormes Y De Sus Fortunas Y Adversidades



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Description

Spain has produced two books that changed world literature: Don Quixote and Lazarillo de Tormes, the first picaresque novel ever written and the inspired precursor to works as various as Vanity Fair and Huckleberry Finn. Banned by the Spanish Inquisition after publication in 1554, Lazarillo was soon translated throughout Europe, where it was widely copied. The book is a favorite to this day for its vigorous colloquial style and the earthy realism with which it exposes human hypocrisy.

The bastard son of a prostitute, Lazarillo goes to work for a blind beggar, who beats and starves him, while teaching him some very useful dirty tricks. The boy then drifts in and out of the service of a succession of masters, each vividly sketched and together revealing the corrupt world of imperial Spain. Its miseries are made all the more apparent by the candor and surprising good cheer with which young Lazarillo recounts his ever more curious fate.

The author of Lazarillo de Tormes is unknown.

Insightful reviews

jeremy: despite being nearly half a millennium old, *the life of lazarillo de tormes: his fortunes and adversities* remains eminently readable, charming, and more than a little funny. published anonymously in 1554 (the authorship debate rages ever on), the novella was banned and later censored as part of the spanish inquisition for its allegedly heretical content. *the life of lazarillo de tormes*, credited as being the first picaresque work of fiction, follows the (mis)fortunes of young lázaro, a poor spaniard born (literally) in the river tormes, whose adolescent life is shaped by the series of cruel, neglectful masters with whom he is able to find employment. the scant recompense offered lázaro forces him to develop a scheming ingenuity needed not for mischievous antics, but rather to simply stay fed. instead of turning bitter or resentful, the young narrator welcomes each new master and opportunity as a means to garnering a more secure lifestyle. this slender yet substantial book takes aim at both 16th century spanish society and the ample hypocrisies of the church, and does so with well-aimed humor. *the life of lazarillo de tormes*, even without its enormous effect on literature, continues to be a worthy, entertaining read some four and a half centuries after it was written.

it is a joy to me to recount these childish matters to your excellency, to show how much virtue there can be in those who are born to low estate and drag themselves up, and how much vice in the great who let themselves be dragged down.

*this nyrb edition of *lazarillo* was rendered from the spanish by the acclaimed and accomplished american poet and translator, w.s. merwin.

Raúl: 'Necio, aprende: que el moço del ciego un punto ha de saber más que el diablo'.

¿Qué puedo decir? Ésta es una de las obras más interesantes de la historia de la literatura

hispánica; cada vez que la leo la disfruto y extraigo algo nuevo. Primera novela picaresca del Siglo de Oro español (aunque ya hubiera lejanos antecedentes medievales, como el Arcipreste de Hita), que influyó directamente a muchas obras del siglo XVII. Renacentista, sí, aunque surgida aún en un mundo a caballo entre la Edad Media y los nuevos tiempos. La acción y la redacción de la obra se inscriben durante el reinado del emperador Carlos V. El lugar se sitúa en distintos sitios entre Salamanca y Toledo. A todo aquel interesado en la historia de nuestras letras le recomiendo que escoja una buena edición que respete la transcripción original del siglo XVI, y no una adaptación al castellano actual, como se encuentra en muchas editoriales. Es una experiencia completamente distinta. Comprendo que estas adaptaciones son útiles, sobre todo para escolares, pero como suele decirse, no hay color.

La historia muestra un ejemplo de condicionamiento social, donde los hijos de nadie deben buscarse la vida de cualquier modo para sobrevivir, en un mundo despiadado y absurdo. Los clérigos dicen misa a los muertos, pero solo piensan en vivir la vida lo mejor que pueden; los más devotos son también los más falsos; la Iglesia vende bulas y engaña al pueblo con falsos milagros... El anónimo autor era sin duda un adelantado a su tiempo, uno de aquellos erasmistas críticos con la Iglesia, la hipocresía y la corrupción. Y es que son geniales sus pullas, y destaco el Tratado Tercero, dedicado a poner en solfa a la honra, tan importante entonces. El humor está muy bien engarzado a la crítica e incluso al drama, sin salir perjudicado ninguno de estos aspectos. Por último, el tono final es agri dulce, para mi bastante triste: Lázaro consigue establecerse y superar la pobreza, pero a costa de su dignidad y de eso que los otros, los bien nacidos, llaman honra.

Tony: Truly remarkable that this work was first published in 1554. Remarkable also that it became an immediate international success. What that should tell us is that human foibles have not changed since, well, we started recording human foibles.

A small boy, a prostitute's bastard son, makes the best of a brutal existence, mooring to one master after another, doing what it takes to survive. He faces greed and naïveté, pretentiousness and self-loathing, cruelty, and always hunger. He learns well enough; he will not starve. He (the boy) is not trying to be funny - he just sees the hypocrisy - but the author is very funny indeed. He's anonymous too, and for good reason, heresy being a serious offense and broadly and flexibly defined back in the day.

It's funny now, because things haven't changed much at the core. Especially when Anonymous says this: *How many there must be in the world who run away from others because they do not see themselves!*

This is a very quick read, something you could polish off in a morning at work, if you would ever do such a thing.

The NYRB Classics are such a treasure trove. And, oh, if there are awards for translations, give them all to W.S. Merwin.

Sandra: Quería recordar los angeles lectura obligada del colegio, tengo buen recuerdo aunque creo que ahora le he sacado más partido que en el colegio

María Shallcrass: Antes de empezar a leer El Lazarillo de Tormes, tenía unas expectativas muy bajas pero, a decir verdad, ha sido una lectura entretenida. No me ha apasionado, pero si es verdad que te haces un poco a los angeles suggestion de los angeles vida que llevaban los niños de orígenes humildes de los angeles España del siglo XVI. Es interesante cómo evoluciona l. a. forma de ser de Lázaro y cómo paso a paso va a adquiriendo esa picardía que le permite sobrevivir. Lo más llamativo de los angeles novela yo creo que es el final, el pueblo descubre que su mujer es amante del arcipreste y él, no le da importancia, ya que después de todo lo que ha pasado en su vida, finalmente ha conseguido un ascenso social, y ese asunto para él tiene una insignificante importancia. A mi me ha parecido una lectura amena, agradable y en ocasiones divertida.

Jason: I loved those novels! Seedy characters and crime, a few humorous moments. this is often v episodic, and thanks to that it truly is difficult to recollect what occurs in what order, yet that isn't particularly the purpose of novels like this. plenty of repetitive violence, loads in order that there have been moments the place i used to be like, "Give the man a break!" yet total i believe i am into the picaresque.

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