



The Prince and the Pauper

Mark Twain

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Poor boy Tom Canty admires the royals who seem so far out of his reach in sixteenth-century English society, but when he meets young Prince Edward, he realizes they are very much alike. They share the same birthday and the same face. And when Edward dons Tom's rags, and Tom slips into the royal cloak, no one can tell them apart. The wrong prince will soon be crowned king, unless Edward can produce the Great Seal of England in time to prove his right to the throne.

In *The Prince and the Pauper*, Mark Twain sheds satiric light on class distinctions, personal identity, and power dynamics that seem as germane today as ever before.

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Revised edition: Previously published as *The Prince and the Pauper*, this edition of *The Prince and the Pauper* (AmazonClassics Edition) includes editorial revisions.

The Prince and the Pauper Details

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From Reader Review The Prince and the Pauper for online ebook

Mary Lynn HR says

Listened on Audible.

Cindy says

I loved this story. I agree that it goes much deeper than just two boys switching identity. It took me a long time to review this book, because I am still thinking about it. The moral of this story should be be careful of what you wish for. I thought the opening paragraph was really sad. Two children born at the same time. Tom Canty born to a beggars family, not wanted and Edward, Prince of England, the whole country was celebrating. Excellent set up to show the different class systems. I still wonder how two very different boys could change clothes and look exactly the same. Clothes shouldn't be a measure of how someone is treated. If you dress like a beggar, people tend to treat you like a beggar. I like a book with a good villain. John Canty was Tom's father. He was mean, would beat Tom for not bringing home enough begging money. Kept showing up with his band of ruffians. He was trying to bring home his son, who was really Edward.

The Shakespeare language was a little difficult to understand, but I got used to it as I read more. The storyline is too good to get hung up on the language usage.

I would highly recommend it. It gave me much to think about. If you want something so bad, like to be a King. Would you be happy if that wish came true? Flip the coin, if you were rich, would you want to live poor for awhile? I liked the end. Both boys learned from their experience and brought about much needed change.

Johann Tabua says

Reading Mark Twain's "The Prince and The Pauper" I was enveloped in a world of fancifully conceived royalty. It's like this book deals with royalty through the eyes of innocent children like "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn" dealt with slavery through the eyes of an innocent poor boy named Huck. I find there's a kind of spirit to Twain's writing that confiscates all arrogance from a reader's mind and allows them to simply enjoy a story for its story and its soul.

Soul is something that Twain has plenty of. He has ethical vision in his storytelling. His prose is prose that drips the idea of a revaluation of values into the reader's consciousness. Such scenes as the swap of attire that begins "The Prince and The Pauper" to the brutality that the character Miles Hendon must undergo toward the end of the novel push the reader toward a spiritual empathy and understanding without coming off as preachy and condescending.

I really enjoyed this book. It gives a vision of aristocracy and the impulsive abuses of power that can be performed when a ruler is beyond condemnation. The prince and the mock-prince are both boys growing up to discover the harsh reality of a realized maturity. By the end both boys must face exactly who they are and what they have to truly rule over in life. Both of them must step out from underneath the shadows of their

fathers and take their rightful places as men.

"The Prince and The Pauper" is a wonderful novel that is warm with its regard for humility. Both the prince and the mock-prince must learn to be humble and still with the affliction of their realities.

All in all "The Prince and The Pauper" is a brilliant read. It has levity and gravity without ego but always with Twain's sense of humor and compassion. I recommend "The Prince and The Pauper" to anyone who wants to read a good story and is a fan of Mark Twain.

Anna says

A fun book that was easy and quick reading but had a good thought provoking message to it.

Repton1973 says

M'eh. A "book for children of all ages" but not for this cynical quadragenarian reader. Save your time and watch "Trading Places" which is a great adaptation ... and avoid the Mickey Mouse version

tarun mishra says

My first classic that I read

Melanie says

I like the story, I like the adventure and emotional turmoil that each boy endures. But it has such an abrupt end that I can't really say I loved it.
