



# Evangeline and Other Poems

*Henry Wadsworth Longfellow*

Download now

Read Online →

# Evangeline and Other Poems

*Henry Wadsworth Longfellow*

## **Evangeline and Other Poems** Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

It has been said that a copy of Longfellow's narrative poem *Evangeline* could be found in every literate household in America in the nineteenth century. Certainly its poignant romance touched many hearts and stirred deepening interest in the Maine-born Harvard educator who, in his lifetime, would become America's most famous poet. This book contains the complete *Evangeline* and a number of other widely admired Longfellow poems.

Included are the memorable "The Skeleton in Armor," "The Arsenal at Springfield," "Mezzo Cammin," and "Aftermath." Here, too, is *Divina Commedia*, the six sonnets on Dante that are among the poet's finest works. All have been reprinted from an authoritative edition of Longfellow's poems.

## **Evangeline and Other Poems Details**

Date : Published April 12th 1995 by Dover Publications (first published January 1st 1912)

ISBN : 9780486282558

Author : Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

Format : Paperback 80 pages

Genre : Poetry, Classics, Fiction

 [Download Evangeline and Other Poems ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Evangeline and Other Poems ...pdf](#)

**Download and Read Free Online Evangeline and Other Poems Henry Wadsworth Longfellow**

---

# From Reader Review *Evangeline and Other Poems* for online ebook

## **Jim says**

I like this collection even better than *The Children's Own Longfellow*. For one thing, this volume includes both parts of *Evangeline*, whereas *The Children's Own Longfellow* included only the first part. This volume also contains the sonnets *Mezzo Cammin* and *The Cross of Snow*, a rumination on the death of Longfellow's wife, and six sonnets that Longfellow wrote while translating the *Divine Comedy*.

I didn't realize until recently what a talented, learned man Longfellow was, translating poetry from languages such as Spanish, German, French, Swedish, Danish, and Italian. Longfellow also wrote *Evangeline* in dactylic hexameter, the traditional meter of ancient Greek and Roman epic poetry--no small accomplishment.

---

## **Michael says**

Wonderful. One of my Favorites.

---

## **Jane says**

Got this book as a gift from a friend. It is a nice collection of poems by Longfellow, both short and lengthy (for a poem).

---

## **Mike says**

I read this aloud to my plant *Evangeline* and it died. Thank ye, Shannon. ;)

---

## **Kate Daly says**

*Evangeline* is an all-time favorite, which I share with my grandmother.

---

## **Dylan Grant says**

I really wasn't prepared for how intensely good this book was. Henry Longfellow's love for his European ancestors shines through in every word, and as a man of European descent who is also intensely proud of the accomplishments of his ancestors this book really resonates with me.

The first couple of poems in this book are just plain fun. Especially "*The Skeleton in Armour*", which could easily be told at a campfire for both its atmospheric creepiness and for its homage to the Scandinavian sagas.

In the "Divine Commedia" Henry's heart pours out love for his Christian heritage. Any person of European descent has a Christian heritage of beautiful art, architecture, and heroism that he or she should be proud of, and if "Divine Commedia" doesn't awaken that in you... you have a problem.

Of course, the mainstay of this poem is "Evangeline". To be honest, this poem starts off very slow. The descriptions of natural scenery take up the bulk of the poem, and while they are very creative and prettily worded, the truth of the matter is that there is simply too many of them, especially at the beginning. However, as soon as the characters are introduced (which takes too long) I was seriously hooked. Evangeline is nothing less than my favourite female character. It really shows how the traditional woman who strived for chastity, devotion and kindness was a tremendous blessing for anyone who knew her. Evangeline inspires reverence in all the characters in the story, and I have to say she inspires that in me too. Surely a slut will receive attention from dog-like men, but that is nothing like the reverence that the traditional woman gets for her virtue.

I am a real sucker for stories that romanticize past cultures, and the Acadians get the romanticization they deserve here. I have to say I am curious as to why their lifestyle resembles so much the Hutterites, the Shakers, and partly the Amish. Were socialistic, pacifistic agricultural Christians just really, really popular 200 years ago?

After Evangeline and the rest of the cast gets introduced the conflict begins. At first, Henry's poem makes you think that it is going to be very pastorally optimistic, kind of sickeningly sweet but still good. But no. Instead, Evangeline is genuinely one of the saddest things I ever read. Seriously, I was NOT prepared for it. I read this at work and it just killed me. It is just one tragedy after the other, made all the worse by the fact that the innocence of the Acadians has been spoiled and by the fact that Evangeline is such a good person. When Evangeline resolves to find Gabriel since her heart belongs to him, and when she fails to find him and so devotes his life to Jesus instead, I realized how profoundly spiritual of a poem I was reading.

Evangeline doesn't find "True Love", but amid life's tragedies she does find God, which is both better than "True Love" and all the world's fortunes anyway. By the end of the story Evangeline is a full-on saint. A real spiritual woman, and easily my favourite heroine in literature.

I also enjoyed the story 10 times more being from Nova Scotia, of course, and enjoyed all the references to beautiful Louisbourg.

May the European race return to its traditional spiritual ideals. Aum / Amen.

---

## **Christopher says**

This Dover Thrift Edition makes an economical and convenient introduction to the work of Heendry Wadsworth Longfellow (1807-1882), the American poet who sort of provided the antithesis to Walt Whitman by always looking back to the continental European canon in writing verse on American themes. The volume contains his long poem "Evangeline" and is rounded out with 9 shorter poems.

"Evangeline" (1847) is a long poem in dactylic hexameters on the expulsion of the Acadians, the French settlers of Nova Scotia who were forced out by the British in 1755. The poem opens with a depiction of happy life in an Acadian village, around the time that the lovely maiden Evangeline is betrothed to the

handsome blacksmith's son Gabriel. Immediately after, the British military comes in, and the couple are separated. Evangeline spends long years searching for Gabriel from Louisiana to Michigan and on to Philadelphia. Besides reminding his contemporary readers of the historical tragedy of the Acadian expulsion, "Evangeline" seems to be Longfellow's tribute to the North American continent and its diversity from the chilly zones of eastern Canada to the feverish bayous of the Cajun land. I enjoyed the plot, and Longfellow is to be praised for successfully creating a long poem in English in dactylic hexameters, as this metre is not at all appropriate for English. I was surprised to see that dactylic hexameter lacks a certain gestalt that other metres have; I love to memorize verse, but little of "Evangeline" could be committed to memory when written in this verse form.

Little of the remaining poems in this volume appeal to me, as I'm not a big fan of typical English rhymed poetry of this period. Nonetheless, "The Cross of Snow", which Longfellow wrote in memory of his second wife, is quite moving. "Divina Commedia", a series of six sonnets the poet wrote while translating Dante, have some interesting metaphors.

---

### **Valerie says**

I recently read an edition of *Evangeline* in which about half the book was taken up by critical material. This version is almost solely the texts of this and other poems, though there is information (in the table of contents) as to where to find the originals. It claims to be 'unabridged'--we'll see how *Evangeline* compares. Ok, it's more or less comparable, less most of the glossary and critical material. There are some glossing footnotes, which still don't cover things like Longfellow's use of the word 'desert'.

As for the 'other poems', I've yet to read them. I'll have to do so before I can comment. Don't care much for them, truth be known. "The Skeleton in Armor" is frankly ridiculous. It's obviously written by somebody who knew nothing about Vikings, and didn't see that as a reason not to write about them. Many of the other poems are essentially travelogues by somebody who doesn't seem to have gotten outside the cities and towns during his visits to places like Italy. Dickens, for example, has better descriptions of the Alps in *David Copperfield*, though I don't believe Dickens himself went there often. At least they're not almost entirely elided, as in these poems. Ok, the church bells are impressive. Might try getting out on to the hillside, at least once or twice. Come to that, there aren't a lot of mountains in the works of Longfellow I've read. Maybe he didn't care for them.

---

### **Esther says**

Rare is the poem that fills my heart with longing and love. Rare is the poem that is read through glimmering tears. Yet such is the poem of *Evangeline*. Take up this treasure, let your eyes fall upon its resplendent beauty, let your heart be filled with the love therein that one day, perhaps, our own tales could boast of such faithfulness as that of *Evangeline*.

"Talk not of wasted affection, affection was never wasted;

If it enrich not the heart of another, it's waters, returning

Back to their springs, like the rain, shall fill them full of refreshment;

That which the fountain sends forth returns again to the fountain." - *Evangeline*, page 36

---

## **Mona says**

This edition of selected poems by Longfellow features the epic poem "Evangeline", which narrates the tale of two lovers separated during "The Great Upheaval", or Britain's forced removal of the Acadian people to the American colonies during the French and Indian War. The poem relies heavily on natural imagery and invocations of the Trinity, and is written in dactylic hexameter, which was also used for Homer's Illiad and Odyssey.

Despite really liking some of the other (shorter) poems in this collection, I'm not a huge fan of this poem. The natural descriptions *are* stunning and surprisingly, the poem is easy to read despite the meter (I remember finding Homer difficult in high school). But the story doesn't resonate with me.

I suspect that my reaction may be tainted with my position as a 21st-century reader as opposed to a 19th-century reader. For one thing, I think the readers of the 19th century had longer attention spans than I do. Forty-seven pages of metered poetry was a struggle. Also, I can't help but feel that the story of separated lovers wandering the lands in search of each other year after year after year may have been a newer concept to those readers of the past. Or maybe it's that they had a particular fascination with the colonies and early America welcoming the distressed Acadians, uprooted from their homes by common-enemy Britain. Longfellow *was* known (and criticized) for giving readers what they wanted.

Apparently, Longfellow's account of "The Great Upheaval" has long been considered the most popular (though biased) version. There is even a monument dedicated to the fictional Evangeline in Louisiana. I'm glad I read the poem as it was Longfellow's most-read work, but I had more luck with other poems such as "Carillon" and "Mezzo Cammin."

---

## **Deena Scintilla says**

Read this YEARS ago but want to read it again with more maturity.

---

## **Matthew Metzdorf says**

I love H.W. Longfellow. His woeful long free verse poem "Evangline" is among the most heartbreaking poems of American Literature. But more than that, the lesser known works featured in this volume show his range, with many beautiful rhyme schemes that have fallen out of use over the years. Couplets and Tercets and Odes to poets past round out this glorious volume that I got for a dollar  
thankyouverymuchhalfpricebooks

---

## **Bethany Richter says**

I don't spend much time in poetry. But from my limited foray, Longfellow is my favorite.

I love rhyming, I'm not a fan of obscure symbolism. I like a ballad. Longfellow delivers.

Favorites: Evangeline,

---

## **Brian says**

You know... you would have thought that this is something I should have read already. I'm a Cajun. My dad traced our ancestors back to Grand-Pre and to France. In fact we went to France a couple of years back and found the home of some of our ancestors that after fleeing Grand-Pre resettled in central France. I grew up in the swamps of Louisiana after my great-great-great... grandfather fled south. This is about my culture and I overlooked this gem for 47 years.

Well, it was a good read, though sad. Saturday I lounged on the couch and read it not once but twice. Beautifully written; the imagery in high definition.

----

Suddenly rose from the south a light,  
as in autumn the blood-red

Moon climbs the crystal walls of  
heaven, and o'er the horizon

Titan-like stretches its hundred hands  
upon mountain and meadow,

Seizing the rocks and the rivers, and  
piling huge shadows together.

Broader and ever broader it gleamed  
on the roofs of the village.

Gleamed on the sky and the sea, and  
the ships that lay in the roadstead.

Columns of shining smoke uprose, and  
flashes of flame were

Thrust through their folds and withdrawn,  
like the quivering hands of a martyr.

Then as the wind seized the gleeds and  
the burning thatch, and, uplifting,

Whirled them aloft through the air, at  
once from a hundred house-tops

Started the sheeted smoke with flashes  
of flame intermingled.

These things beheld in dismay the  
crowd on the shore and on shipboard.

Speechless at first they stood, then  
cried aloud in their anguish,

"We shall behold no more our homes  
in the village of Grand-Pre!"

---

### **Rob Roy says**

My mother read this in school, and loved it. When I hit school, it had fallen out of the curriculum. I dare say, it is virtually unknown except for English majors today. I finally sat down and read it, and my only disappointment was that I did not do so long ago. It is a love story with the back ground of the expelling of the Acadians in 1755. Two lovers are torn apart and transported. Evangeline spends the rest of her life in search of her beloved. Yes, it is a romance, but one that puts Harliquin to shame.

---