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GIOVANNI VERGA

Cavalleria Rusticana and Other Stories

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Giovanni Verga, G.H. McWilliam (Introduction)

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The stories of Giovanni Verga (1840-1922) are wonderful evocations of ordinary Italian life, focusing in particular on his native Sicily. In an original and dynamic prose style, he portrays such eternal human themes as love, honour and adultery with rich and colourful language. The inspiration for Mascagni's opera, 'Cavalleria Rusticana' depicts a young man's triumphal return home from the army, spoilt when he learns that his beloved is engaged to another man. Verga's acute awareness of the hardships and aspirations of peasant life can be seen in stories such as 'Nedda', 'Picturesque Lives' and 'Black Bread', while others such as 'The Reverend' and 'Don Licciu Papa' show the dominance of the church and the law in the Sicilian communities he portrays so vividly.

Cavalleria Rusticana and Other Stories Details

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Author : Giovanni Verga , G.H. McWilliam (Introduction)

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From Reader Review Cavalleria Rusticana and Other Stories for online ebook

Alyssa Tallama says

"War Between Saints" - 5 stars

"Cavalleria Rusticana" - 3 stars

"The She-Wolf" - 2.5 stars

"Gramigna's Mistress" - 2.5 stars

Ravi Singh says

Shorts stories of life for the rural poor in Sicily, Italy. Very earnest and heartfelt people doing their very best to survive. They could have summarised the lives of many poor people around the world in rural areas in these stories, its seems so universal. The passions and motivations that spur people's lives on, really is caught in this very localised style of writing.

Good stories and recommended.

J Bradbury says

Short stories about life for the rural poor in Sicily in the 1800s & interesting description of peasant life but all the stories have depressing endings!

Jenn says

Beautiful prose, but relatively boring stories.

Paul Jellinek says

OK, so not every story is a gem, but there are enough gems in this collection of Giovanni Verga short stories to easily score five stars. Verga has a voice all his own, which I first encountered years ago in his amazing novel "Under the Medlar Tree," about life in a small Sicilian village around the turn of the (last) century. The best stories in this volume take place in that same corner of the world, and he tells them simply and beautifully, despite the fact that the stories themselves are often harsh, even brutal. Probably not everybody's cup of tea, but I love this stuff.

Dale Boyer says

An Overlooked Master

I picked up this book because of a trip to Sicily, and as I read, I continued to be astounded at how good Verga was, and at the fact that he isn't better known (in the US, at least). I'd never heard of Verga, but his best work is right up there with Chekhov and Henry James. "The She Wolf" is shocking (there's really no other word for it); "Jeli, The Shepherd" unfolds almost biblically, and with a great deal of pathos; "Rosso Malpelo" is an enviably good character study (really trenchant psychologically); "Gramigna's Mistress"; "How, When, Why" (though I must confess I don't really understand this title at all); and "The Reverend" are all first rate. And the astounding first sentence of "Getting to Know the King" is so good at setting place, time and character, it should be used to teach writing classes. I heartily recommend this book to anyone interested not only in Sicily, but also in great literature. It's an amazing little discovery.

Stefanie says

These masterfully crafted stories read like an authentic slice of Sicilian life.

Elisabeth Glas says

As intense as promised. The colors, the emotions, the poverty. Many strong women!
