



Literary Lapses

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Oh, Henry, quick Baby has snatched the pill It was too true. Dear little Gustavus Adolphus, the golden-haired baby boy, had grabbed the whole Christmas dinner off the poker chip and bolted it. Three hundred and fifty pounds of concentrated nourishment passed down the oesophagus of the unthinking child.

Literary Lapses Details

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Author : Stephen Leacock

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From Reader Review Literary Lapses for online ebook

Dianne says

If you've never read Leacock you are missing out on some serious entertainment. His writing is smart, imaginative, funny, and altogether quite enjoyable.

Christine says

Having started with Leacock's Sunshine Sketches, I struggled through his first offering of short stories. There are glimpses of the delightfully wicked humour and turn of phrases here and there, just not enough.

Timothy Ferguson says

Laugh out loud funny, on a regular basis

The book didn't click for me, until about chapter 4. Not so much because of the LibriVox reading, which is good or excellent depending on the reader, but because...well I don't know. It took me a little while to "get" the author.

I mention this only to suggest to you that if you are listening to this and just don't get it, give it a little time. It really is excellent once you click to it.

(His politics regarding the Armenians are abominable, though.)

Laci says

Great. The style reminded me of Three Men in a Boat, and I liked that one as well.

Fergus says

Canada's own Stephen Leacock was a hard - albeit hilarious - nut to crack.

When he broke onto the world literary stage in 1910 with this collection of stories, the reaction was wildly mixed. Ordinary folks LOVED him.

And because of their hardcore support, Leacock soon became the funniest Anglophone writer on the planet - for the last thirty years of his life.

But you know something else?

Rich members of the Establishment LOATHED him.

Why?

Well you see, Leacock was cast in that strangely oddball but distinctly Canadian mold - the Red Tory.

Like John G. Diefenbaker was, half a century later.

Except he was VERY Red.

A radical professional economist, educated at the prestigious University of Chicago - remember the place where left-leaning Saul Bellow hung his hat? - he believed in emulating Robin Hood, and redistributing wealth.

And he even ran as a Tory candidate in Ontario's Muskoka cottage country on that platform!

So the Establishment labelled him a Bolshevik.

After all, better Dead than Red, right?

Wrong, said Leacock! He just chuckled: hey, you guys are missing the point... there's NOTHING wrong with money, as long as EVERYBODY has enough!

And used his gift of comedy to prove the point.

Oh, so subtly...

Take the Crown Jewel of this collection, the legendary My Financial Career.

Little Mr. Everyman decides one day that, since he has more than fifty bucks in his wallet (what'd HE do - win the lottery?), he'll deposit it safely in the town bank.

Well, the bank manager treats him as royalty in his private office - until he learns this poor schmo's only got a grand total of \$56.00 TO HIS NAME!

Well, all heck breaks loose. The poor little guy gets suddenly very, very paranoid...

And merry mayhem breaks out like gangbusters.

The rest you'll have to read for yourself.

Enough said?

Yeah, Leacock LOVED the little guy.

Fought hard for him all his life.

Maybe a bit too much -

For who knows if Leacock could ever show his face in a Canadian bank again - without laughing uproariously?

Rhys says

This collection of sketches and stories is absolutely hilarious. Stephen Leacock is one of the truly great humorists of the 20th Century. At their best these pieces are delightful and ingenious. One of Leacock's many areas of expertise in the art of comedic writing is to exploit the device of misapplied logic. It is difficult to single out any individual pieces from this collection without being unfair to the others. The majority of them work extremely well and perusal of this volume had me laughing aloud frequently.

Adam Zbiejczuk says

This is an all-time classic. Even though it is SO OLD (first published 1910!) it surely gives you a good laugh. And maybe a snip of nostalgia for good ol' times :) In Czech as "Literární poklesky" in a brilliant translation. An ideal gift even for people who do not read really much, as the short stories are really short :)

Bronislava Sencakova says

Vianočný tip via:

Galina Miklínová, ilustrátorka

Co vianočne známy auto?i knížek? Nechte se inspirovat (18. 12. 2018)

MTK says

26 χιουμοριστικ? κε?μενα γραμμ?να στις αρχ?ς του προηγο?μενου αι?να, μ?νο μερικ? απ? τα οπο?α αστε?α. Ομολογ? ?τι απ? ?να σημε?ο και μετ? απλ?ς το ξεφ?λλισα, το χιο?μορ ε?ναι εντελ?ς παρωχημ?νο.

Christina Strynatka says

Dry, witty, and charming, this collection of short stories will leave you so amazed you'll be asking yourself, 'just how did he manage to arrange the words so artfully?'

Al says

Leacock was a humorist genius loved by Groucho Marx and many others for his comic chops, great emotional detail of humor. Using the fictional English royal family, the Oxheads, he detailed the mythic cowardice of Lord Oxhead's family, several members of which are set up to be admired and then we see the description of their valor was more in its absence than presence. First to reach Plymouth in a boat to let the people know that, near as he could tell from a great distance, the Spanish Armada had arrived. Or the one who fought with Wellington, and was fired for it.

Veronika Sebechlebská says

Poviedky miestami absurdnejšie ako tie cesty bratislavskou MHD, po?as ktorých som ich vä?šinou ?ítať

1.1 says

I read this mostly because my memory of *Sunshine Sketches* was a little too vague to legitimately support the idea that the Stephen Leacock prize was awarded to works (like *The Best Laid Plans*) that were outclassed by Leacock's own work. After reading *Literary Lapses* I would temper my judgment, but in the specific case alluded to above, Leacock remains superior if at times dated. The benefit of Leacock's work being humorous is that it has a much better shelf life than a given novel from the era – a bit dry perhaps, more sensible chuckles than tears of mirth, but then time always takes its due. Other works awarded the Stephen Leacock Memorial Medal could well be funnier, but I don't follow the prize so closely, and past experience leads me to be cautious.

Veronika says

Asi jsem byla tolík namlisaná povídkou, kterou jsem ?etla kdysi, že jsem ?ekala to samé i od ostatních. Ob?as to byla zábava, jindy ne. V celku pr?m?rné. Rozhodn? vyhrála matematická povídka o pánech A, B a C... :-D

Pavel says

Britský (aspo? p?vodem) humor, jak ho mám rád - suchý, absurdní, ale s p?esahem. Autor znal lidi a dob?e jim rozum?l.

