

THE
CROCODILE



BY

FYODOR DOSTOEVSKY

The Crocodile

Fyodor Dostoyevsky, Samuel D. Cioran (Translator)

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Usually interpreted as a diatribe against the Chernyshevsky generation, it is a work that is often referred to, but rarely read. Cioran's translation... is not only readable, but is evocative of the wit and satire of the original; it is both accurate and fluid.

The Crocodile Details

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From Reader Review The Crocodile for online ebook

J.J. Rodeo says

Mehwish Mughal says

Welcome to Dostoyevsky's world of absurdities. A story with no end.

A couple goes to see a crocodile and the man is gulped down by the crocodile. The friend is the only one who attempts to get him out of there. But, it is the 'economic principle' that succeeds at the end (of the endless story).

Foreign investment in Russia must be protected, everyone argues including the man in the crocodile. Focus on individualisation - the man in the crocodile's fantasizes of becoming famous from within the crocodile. A dig at the enlightenment, progressive liberals, capitalism through a portrayal of inhumanity towards humanity.

Manjesh says

Dear fellow good-readers,

Dostoevsky describes this a true story of a gentleman who was swallowed by the crocodile and he simply tells the consequences of the same thereafter.

In some way it will also remind the readers of Kafka's Metamorphosis. Though, Kafka's Metamorphosis came long after Dostoevsky's Crocodile but the former had a larger reach.

It was a nice satire on the political, social and economic conditions of Russia and Europe of 1860's.

The satire still holds its ground quite well...

after all "The principles of economics come first!" (In Russian accent). You will know what I intend to mean by this once you read the story of Ivan Matveitch who seems very comfortable inside the Crocodile's stomach which he claims to be really spacious and elastic.

A must-read for the Marxists and surely a very good-read for all !

Warm regards

Vibina Venugopal says

The story really came as a surprise for me in the beginning..It is about Ivan Matveich (I have always had problem with getting the names right, I'm not even sure if i'm spelling them right till the end) who is swallowed by a crocodile live at a public exhibition in St. Petersburg..He teases his way to get to this trap..He is accompanied by his wife Elena Ivanovna and a friend Semyon Semyonitch to the exhibition..The crocodile is being is touring all over the country run by a German couple...Ivan's wife make an appeal to the couple to cut the crocodile to rescue her husband while the couple demand a ransom in return...Elena is unable to make all that money while Ivan gets accustomed to his new environment comfortably , he even starts enjoying the attention he gathers by his new found place of life...On the contrary Elena begins to appreciate her freedom and life without Ivan...

Like I had mentioned earlier, I was quite taken aback by the plot initially, but then it dawned to me that it was a parody..Through Ivan's situation Dostyovaesky points at various social issues...The story is amazingly engaging, and very much enjoyable with its strange story-line and pace..Only a master story teller like Dostoevsky can put a strong and powerful message wrapped in a soft touch...He makes dig at the writers, newspaper and every socially responsible authorities who publicize the man inside a crocodile.. I would say it can come under the contemporary writing with a classic feel...The humour and wit are just perfect for a wonderful reading that makes you smile and think at the same time...

Loved this one and I would recommend to anyone who likes Russian writers and classic short stories..

A. says

Sarcasmo (y del bueno) para ilustrar a la Rusia del siglo XIX, forcejeando, confusa, entre el "modelo europeo" y las impasibles tradiciones. Una historia casi delirante, pero divertida: Un funcionario ruso es engullido por un cocodrilo y... simplemente decide quedarse a vivir allí. Su mujer parece menos preocupada de lo que se esperaría y otros funcionarios parecen más inquietos por el supuesto viaje fuera del país que el ingrato engullido iba a realizar, que por la suerte que pudiera correr en la entrañas del animalito.
Humor y reflexión, cortesía del gran Dostoyevski.

Hesam Bagheri says

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Merouane Taibi says

"??? ?? ???? ???? ???? ?? ?? ????"

Orcun says

An early precursor of Kafka's "Metamorphosis". Actually, in this satirical allegory, there is no metamorphosis - but a difficulty in digestion.

Ken says

Amusing (and how often can one say this of Dostoyesvky?) story in the Gogol manner.

Fernando says

Uno de los cuentos más divertidos, corrosivos e irónicos (si no el que más) que escribió Dostoievski. La historia del funcionario que es engullido por un cocodrilo y decide vivir cómodamente allí. Le costó algunos dolores de cabeza a Dostoievski con la crítica y los políticos, pues cada uno de ellos se consideró ridiculizado con el cuento. A mí, me divirtió!

SSamaneHH says

Reza Mardani says

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Brian says

I started laughing as if watching a comedy on television. Loud, vibrant laughter. I didn't know if the author

meant it to be funny until his character laughed. A man gets stuck in a crocodile and dreams up delusions of fame while the owner takes advantage of the situation to make more money. The story scathes capitalism and the economics of the times through satire.

Andrew Ives says

A strange and faintly amusing parable that seems to have a serious message about economic mechanisms and communism somewhere hidden behind the jocular premise about the crocodile itself. Well-written and hardly boring, but if the intention was for it to be viewed as deep and provocative, then it's a somewhat clumsy attempt and misses the mark. If it was written to just imply some deep message, in such a way as to skirt around Russian censorship, then maybe it was very clever and brave for it's time, but despite a few witty passages, it still didn't really strike a chord nowadays to this reader.

Yasaman says

The story had a big impact on me. It was by no means a superficial satire, but one with a skin-deep meaning, aiming at Russians in that rough communism era.

A wake-up call for those who'd gone way into capitalism, but would they get it? According to him "the emptier the brain, the harder to fill it up" So I guess he'd say no.

Sezgi Alcicek says

The message he wanted to give is quite clear. If one knows a little about his life, one can say that this book is all about shaping of globalisation at the time the book was written. The symbols which are very strong are the clues for us to understand what a developing country goes through before we see her in the world market.

Narcissistica says

Vderevlean says

O parodie simpatic? și inteligent? despre credin?ele superficiale ale oamenilor în economie și politic?, mai ales în curentele la mod?. Un text la fel de genial și ast?zi despre apari?ia fake news-ului. și o întâmplare care îl anun?? parc? pe Kafka.

Sarah Awad says

I didn't quite grasp the tone of ridicule throughout the story; while reading I knew I was supposed to find it funny but I didn't, instead I felt it more stupid than it was comedic. It might have made a great political satire had the translation not peeled it all away, I suppose.

Nayef Al-mansouri says

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