

Chapter 1 : Honore de Balzac: Selected Short Stories (ePUB) - ebook download - english

*Honoré de Balzac was a nineteenth-century French novelist and playwright. His magnum opus was a sequence of almost novels and plays collectively entitled *La Comédie humaine*, which presents a panorama of French life in the years after the fall of Napoleon Bonaparte in*

She was not in love with her husband". When the Balzac children returned home, they were kept at a frosty distance from their parents, which affected the author-to-be significantly. His father, seeking to instill the same hardscrabble work ethic which had gained him the esteem of society, intentionally gave little spending money to the boy. This made him the object of ridicule among his much wealthier schoolmates. As a result, he was frequently sent to the "alcove", a punishment cell reserved for disobedient students. I should think I do! I had the honour of escorting him to the dungeon more than a hundred times! He had told me that he found indescribable delight in reading dictionaries for lack of other books. Meanwhile, his father had been writing a treatise on "the means of preventing thefts and murders, and of restoring the men who commit them to a useful role in society", in which he heaped disdain on prison as a form of crime prevention. This was an unhappy time in his life, during which he attempted suicide on a bridge over the Loire River. During this time Balzac began to understand the vagaries of human nature. In his novel *Le Notaire*, he wrote that a young person in the legal profession sees "the oily wheels of every fortune, the hideous wrangling of heirs over corpses not yet cold, the human heart grappling with the Penal Code. He despaired of being "a clerk, a machine, a riding-school hack, eating and drinking and sleeping at fixed hours. I should be like everyone else. I am hungry and nothing is offered to appease my appetite". Realizing he would have trouble finding a composer, however, he turned to other pursuits. In Balzac completed the five-act verse tragedy *Cromwell*. Although it pales by comparison with his later works, some critics consider it a good-quality text. In Balzac met the enterprising Auguste Le Poitevin, who convinced the author to write short stories, which Le Poitevin would then sell to publishers. Balzac quickly turned to longer works, and by he had written nine novels, all published under pseudonyms and often produced in collaboration with other writers. The latter, regarding the Jesuits, illustrated his lifelong admiration for the Catholic Church. This business failed miserably, with many of the books "sold as waste paper". His inexperience and lack of capital caused his ruin in these trades. He gave the businesses to a friend who made them successful but carried the debts for many years. It resurfaced painfully later when—as a renowned and busy author—he traveled to Sardinia in the hopes of reprocessing the slag from the Roman mines there. The *Maison de Balzac* is one of three Parisian literary museums. There he drew inspiration for *Les Chouans*, a tale of love gone wrong amid the Chouan royalist forces. This was the first book Balzac released under his own name, and it gave him what one critic called "passage into the Promised Land". He followed his father in the surname Balzac but added the aristocratic-sounding nobiliary particle to help him fit into respected society, a choice based on skill rather than by right. He felt that the new July Monarchy which claimed widespread popular support was disorganized and unprincipled, in need of a mediator to keep the political peace between the King and insurgent forces. He called for "a young and vigorous man who belongs neither to the Directoire nor to the Empire, but who is incarnate. But after a near-fatal accident in he slipped and cracked his head on the street, Balzac decided not to stand for election. He obtains these things, but loses the ability to manage them. In the end, his health fails and he is consumed by his own confusion. Balzac meant the story to bear witness to the treacherous turns of life, its "serpentine motion". The writing is simple, yet the individuals especially the bourgeois title character are dynamic and complex. He tried to enforce strict impartiality in its pages and a reasoned assessment of various ideologies. It produced three issues. The book undergoes a massive temporal rift; the first part of four covers a span of six years, while the final two sections focus on just three days. The conniving and wrangling over wills and inheritances reflect the expertise gained by the author as a young law clerk. Their length was not predetermined. He wrote from 1 am to 8 am every night and sometimes even longer. Balzac could write very rapidly; some of his novels, written with a quill, were composed at a pace equal to thirty words per minute on a modern typewriter. He then rose and wrote for many hours, fueled by innumerable cups of black coffee. He

often worked for fifteen hours or more at a stretch; he claimed to have once worked for 48 hours with only three hours of rest in the middle. He sometimes repeated this process during the publication of a book, causing significant expense both for himself and the publisher. Nevertheless, he did not spend as much time in salons and clubs of Paris like many of his characters. Her marriage to a considerably older man Charles du Fresnay, Mayor of Sartrouville had been a failure from the outset. This revelation from French journalist Roger Pierrot in confirmed what was already suspected by several historians: His response was to place a classified advertisement in the Gazette de France, hoping that his anonymous critic would see it. Thus began a fifteen-year correspondence between Balzac and "the object of [his] sweetest dreams": In Balzac Countess Ewelina found a kindred spirit for her emotional and social desires, with the added benefit of feeling a connection to the glamorous capital of France. Petersburg in and won her heart. His health deteriorated on the way, and Ewelina wrote to her daughter about Balzac being "in a state of extreme weakness" and "sweating profusely". At his memorial service , Victor Hugo pronounced "Today we have people in black because of the death of the man of talent; a nation in mourning for a man of genius". Rodin featured Balzac in several of his smaller sculptures as well. It haunts me in my moments of pleasure. I remember it when I laugh". Struggling against the currents of human nature and society, they may lose more often than they winâ€”but only rarely do they give up. Intricate details about locations sometimes stretch for fifteen or twenty pages. But the cynicism declined as his oeuvre developed, and the characters of Illusions Perdues reveal sympathy for those who are pushed to one side by society. As part of the 19th-century evolution of the novel as a "democratic literary form", Balzac wrote that "les livres sont faits pour tout le monde" "books are written for everybody". Engels declared that Balzac was his favorite writer. Helm calls one "the French Dickens" and the other "the English Balzac", [] while another critic, Richard Lehan, states that "Balzac was the bridge between the comic realism of Dickens and the naturalism of Zola ". Praising his portrayal of society while attacking his prose style, Flaubert once wrote: In James wrote with sadness about the lack of contemporary attention paid to Balzac, and lavished praise on him in four essays in , , , and In James wrote: Many of his works have been made into popular films and television serials, including: Truffaut believed Balzac and Proust to be the greatest French writers. Please help improve this article by adding citations to reliable sources. Unsourced material may be challenged and removed.

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