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Cyrano De Bergerac

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*Cyrano
de Bergerac*

*By Edmond Rostand
Narrated by Grover Gardner*



Synopsis

This is Edmond Rostand's immortal play in which chivalry and wit, bravery and love are forever captured in the timeless spirit of romance. Set in Louis XIII's reign, it is the moving and exciting drama of one of the finest swordsmen in France, gallant soldier, brilliant wit, tragic poet-lover with the face of a clown. Rostand's extraordinary lyric powers gave birth to a universal hero--Cyrano De Bergerac--and ensured his own reputation as author of one of the best-loved plays in the literature of the stage. This translation, by the American poet Brian Hooker, is nearly as famous as the original play itself, and is generally considered to be one of the finest English verse translations ever written. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Edmond Rostand's enduring tale of "Cyrano de Bergerac" gets the graphic novel treatment in this Classics Illustrated edition, adapted by Peter David and Kyle Baker. Fanciful artwork and some well-chosen explanatory notes make this a great introduction to a great story, equal parts comedy, romance, and drama. The French soldier Cyrano de Bergerac is renowned for his wit, writing skills, bravery with a sword, and his panache. He is also cursed with the largest nose ever to darken a human face, and with an unrequited love for his beautiful cousin Roxanne. Roxanne is in love with the handsome, brave but rather dull Baron Christian de Neuville, and will beg Cyrano to watch over him. Encouraged by Cyrano, Christian will take up the wooing of Roxanne, in which case Cyrano will play many roles. He will also watch over Christian in the face of many threats, even death... This Classics Illustrated edition includes the essentials of a long and moving story, including doing justice

to several comedic moments and to the famous dual wooing scene. Kyle Baker's almost whimsical art crucially captures the changing emotions of the characters. "Cyrano de Bergerac" is very highly recommended as an entertaining graphic novel treatment of a great story.

This play is famous, perhaps more so than most of Shakespeare's plays but how many people have seen or read it? I don't know when I first heard of it but I knew all about it without ever having seen it or read it. It has been compared to "A Tale Of Two Cities", and to other stories with a man substituting himself for another out of some great desire, need, passion, or what have you. Yet Cyrano, with his great nose, rises above them all. Now I have finally read the play, I still need to see it. I have given the play five stars although it has many defects, one of the most glaring being in the title character, a superman yet also a conceited man except for his looks, here he is glaringly deficient and he knows it yet he allows no one to state it other than himself. In the play he lives up to his conceit but I found it to be so bad I could not like the man himself and I did not care that he thought himself unlovely, incapable of a woman's love because of his looks, a monstrous nose that was large enough to be considered a deformity. Today there is plastic surgery, it is hard to think of a time when it was not available and so I find it hard to put myself in his place and understand all his complaints. Fortunately I grew up before such surgery became commonplace and the remnants of my memory help me almost reach understanding, a slight diminution of Cyrano's great grief would place it in my purview. The worst defect I found was in Cyrano's inability to say anything to Roxanne, and especially after the death of Christian. He is supposed to be smart, yet here he shows only stupidity. Still, it is the author's prerogative to bend a character's abilities to suit the needs of the story, it does make for a great play.

It was confusing....but that time of year always seems to be. I knew it was a play/story....but, never considered it would be written as a script. At 13....my grandson is so ready to read classics...that's why I purchased a few of them this year.

I am a HUGE Cyrano de Bergerac fan. To do proper justice to this statement, I would have to honestly have to say I have had almost a twenty year "love affair" with Cyrano. (No offense to my wife! LOL.) This play is absolutely fantastic. I have never read this particular translation before today when I received it in the mail but I must say that I was quite impressed. I admit that I am used to seeing "panache" rather than "white plume" but it's something I could get used to. Cyrano is a man with a HUGE nose and the skill of wit and steel to back up any one who may dare attack his

precious nose. The truth is that for all of his ferocity, he is really quite self-conscious and can never believe that anyone could ever love him. Thus the tragedy of our hero is that he is his own worst enemy. A poet, a warrior, a scientist, a hopeless romantic and though he would do anything for his secret beloved Roxanne, he leads a solitary lonely existence even as he faces death. I know there are those who might say that this is not so. Was not Roxanne there when he died? Yes, but did he allow himself to be comforted and be held as he breathed out his last? No. He had to get up and look death right in the eyes as it were for one last battle. Facing his old enemies as he put it. Cyrano de Bergerac is an absolutely amazing play with so much soul, so much wit, so much humanity, in short, so much NOSE that one would lose out NOT to read it. I feel I would be diminished had I never come across this play. Now, the Christmas present in this particular edition! It comes with a FREE DVD version by the Chamberlain Brothers of Jose Ferrer's Oscar winning 1950 performance of Cyrano de Bergerac. I could not believe my eyes when I opened the package today! I believe there are some of this available from individual sellers. If the price is right, I would recommend it. If you are only interested in the Signet Classics play, has that to. Lowell Blair is the translator of this edition that I'm reviewing.

I read this along with my granddaughter who had it assigned as a summer book. I hadn't read it before, (when I was supposed to in school) after a while it's a can't-put-it-down romp. It takes a minute to get into the play within a play, but then moves swiftly. It's absurdest French comedy, but very important for it's time.

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