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Honoré de Balzac

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1881-01-01 8.00 x .75 x 5.00l, #File Name: B0036ZBEQU300 pages | File size: 68.Mb

Honoré de Balzac : Eugénie Grandet (French Edition) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Eugénie Grandet (French Edition):

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. At Daggers DrawnBy Chadwick Henley EssexPerfect. Or as close to perfection as Balzac gets. The opening 22-page section is a master class for any aspiring novelist in how to set the scene, introduce the characters, suggest the conflicts, reveal the theme, set a whole fictional world spinning on its axis, all with an economy of means as present here as it is absent from the exasperating PERE GORIOT.Characters are

distinct individuals and thus an unsolvable mystery to others as well as themselves. Yet each gets his or her due - even the miser whose avarice is a logical alternative to the religious fanaticism of wife and daughter. When he sings and dances a jig after cornering gold, we happily join in! Novel stands or falls, of course, with the characterization of Eugenie: it is flawless. A portrayal of a young woman besieged by passion for the first time - how it consumes her, elates her, debases her, destroys her - is rendered with such psychological accuracy, such telling detail, such delicacy of touch and subtlety of shading, even at times with such humor, that the encomiums about Balzac that sometimes puzzle us finally ring true: "In Balzac, every living soul is a weapon loaded to the very muzzle with will." Baudelaire "Balzac's great glory is that he pretended hardest." James "The nineteenth century, as we know it, is largely an invention of Balzac's." Wilde

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. A good read
By anonymous
2 This is the second novel by Balzac I have read (Old Goriot the first) and I am quickly becoming a fan. I am looking forward to reading Cousin Bette. I agree with another reviewer who found it difficult to believe that Eugenie could fall so deeply in love with her cousin after one meeting. One might also wonder why the book was titled after Eugenie since the majority of the novel focused on her disgustingly greedy father. Eugenie did not become the main character until the last fourth of the novel. That aside, this is a good story and I enthusiastically recommend it.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. One of Balzac's best
By Ralph Fredrick Kuhlman
I don't know how many folks read Balzac these days. If one wanted to try one of his novels, this would be the one to try. It is not difficult to read and is not long. I have read a number of his novels and this was one of the best. If you do not care for this book, there is probably little point in trying the others.