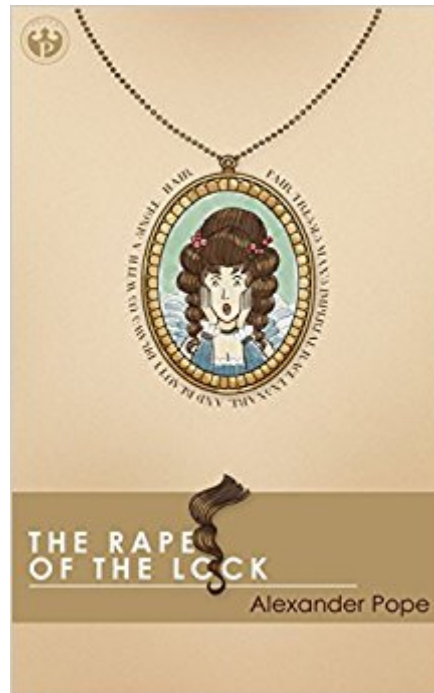


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The Rape Of The Lock (Annotated)



Synopsis

Alexander Pope's mock-heroic poem, including copious notes, reformatted for electronic readers. Unlike other e-book editions, which are merely copies of existing print editions, this edition has been completely reworked for e-readers. Pope's high-burlesque poem satirises the cutting of a lock of Miss Arabella Fermor's hair, without her consent, by her suitor Lord Petre. This edition includes the original, two-canto poem, originally published in Lintot's Miscellaneous Poems and Translations in 1712, together with the expanded five-canto version published in 1714. Notes are provided on the same page as the verse they refer to. This is to facilitate ease of reference, and is unique to this edition. Notes are indicated by a bracketed letter: eg [a]. The footnotes include omitted or additional text, together with material useful to the general reader. Occasionally we refer to the Oxford English Dictionary for a definition: these extracts are flagged as [^]OEDTM. We have hyperlinked all secondary material to its source via archive.org, and we have provided English translations to all classical references.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I read this for my English class, I'll admit. It was a fun read, but not much substance to it, as Pope wrote it after being paid to document the true tale of two rival families, and meant this story to be a satire on the situation, and couldn't help but poke fun and add a lot of classical mythology to try and make up for the lack of a real story.

My version of the poem had a great introduction which explained what inspired the poem, which was a huge bonus for me! Alexander Pope's poem however was easy enough for me to understand, which I greatly appreciate. I particularly loved the description of the women being dressed at the end of the first canto. There was something so profound in the statement that the women take praise for looking good when it isn't them that look good - it was those that dressed them. Granted, I suspect that most women don't have someone dressing them these days; however, today women are so covered in makeup, and with the prevalence of plastic surgery and botox, I'm not sure that we really are making ourselves look good anymore, it's something else. Regardless, the poem was actually quite wonderful. Funny, quirky, and clever - overall I loved it! It amused me how he instilled this sense of impending doom and horror into a comedic poem about a woman's hair being cut off as a prank at a party. Knowing the back-story was tremendously helpful in this regard, if I had not known that it was written in response to a prank played at a party, I would have greatly misunderstood the poem.

This review should be taken seriously considering I didn't really like "The Rape of the Lock" and still give this book 5 stars! "History is not a vacuum," one of my university history professors always told us. Neither is literature for that matter! This book examines the mock-epic poem "Rape of the Lock" in its social, literary, and historical contexts. The poem takes up a small portion of the book, and the rest is made up of diary entries, letters, essays, newspapers, etc. that help to explain the culture surrounding Pope. The city of London, clothes, card games, coffee, makeup, social norms, and countless other things are discussed in very readable and enjoyable ways in order to make "The Rape of the Lock" truly come alive.

This is a highly intelligent book on one of the finest poems by the eighteenth century's most celebrated poet. Brilliantly written with wit, style, and a flair for interesting detail, Wall's book includes textual information and a wealth of carefully selected secondary material that makes this "one-stop shopping" for anyone interested in the work or indeed in the period. Because of its combination of lively writing and scholarly erudition, I would recommend Wall's book for a wide

variety of interest and knowledge levels. Wonderful Bedford series idea and terrific book.

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