



Dodo: An Omnibus

E.F. Benson

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Dodo: An Omnibus Details

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Author : E.F. Benson

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John says

This was a total bore. I had started to read it many times before this. Always stopped but forced myself to finish it this time. There was not one character of any interest and not one page was worth reading.

Sherwood Smith says

The frivolous queen of society was a popular figure in literature during the 1880s and 1890s. Dodo isn't quite as amazingly clever as Anthony Hope's Dolly, nor is the writing as effortlessly elegant as in *The Dolly Dialogues*, but there is no doubt that the two women share similar origins--and society's interest in same.

Dodo marries for money and position and pays for it emotionally, a theme Benson came back to again and again in his work, but later on he relents and lets her marry for love.

The later Dodo stories, though they take place after World War one, are so consciously 'modern' that the longing for the simpler and more gracious old days is even more emphatic than in *Lord of the Rings*; this is in every sense a silver fork novel, with its unrepentant worship of the empyrean of civilization as defined by good birth and old money.

Lyddie says

Dodo doesn't have the same spark as Mapp & Lucia, but it was a pleasant read. I may start the sequel, but there will be a few books between.

Susan says

Since I enjoyed Benson's Lucia books, I thought I'd give the three Dodo books a try. But while Lucia was the target of Benson's satire, he's really taken with the Victorian beauty who marries for wealth and social position, only to regret it. (There's also her daughter Nadine, who is convinced that she cannot love, until suddenly she can.) He mentions on most pages that Dodo had abundant vitality, energy, wit, but for all he shows you, she's just a chattering bore. He also indulges in poetic descriptions of English scenery that go on at great length. The last book--Dodo Wonders--which moves into World War I has a bit more appeal.

Cera says

I enjoyed this at the time, and think I'll enjoy it even more now that I've got some context for proto-Edwardian literature. (What *is* the right term for 1890s literature? It doesn't really seem Victorian in its concerns, even late Victorian, but of course Victoria was still alive....)

Julie Mercer says

LOVED IT!
