



The Diaries of Adam and Eve and Other Stories

Mark Twain

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"Good deal of fog this morning. I do not go out in the fog myself," notes Adam in his diary, adding, "The new creature does. It goes out in all weathers. And talks. It used to be so pleasant and quiet here."

Adam has a lot to learn about Eve, and even more *from* her, as she names the animals, discovers fire, and introduces all manner of innovations to their garden home. Mark Twain's "translation" of the diaries of the first man and woman offers a humorous "he said/she said" narrative of biblical events. The great American storyteller found comfort and inspiration in the company of women, and his irreverent look at conventional religion is also a thoughtful — and humorous — argument for gender equality.

In addition to the tales from Eden, this collection features five short stories: "The \$30,000 Bequest," "Was It Heaven? Or Hell?" "Edward Mills and George Benton: A Tale," "The Californian's Tale," and "A Monument to Adam."

The Diaries of Adam and Eve and Other Stories Details

Date : Published June 26th 2008 by Dover Publications (first published 1906)

ISBN : 9780486460307

Author : Mark Twain

Format : Paperback 96 pages

Genre : Classics, Short Stories, Fiction, Humor, Literature, American

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From Reader Review The Diaries of Adam and Eve and Other Stories for online ebook

Amira Mahmoud says

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Petra says

I expected more from the title stories. Twain's wit & humor are evident and delightful but the diaries aren't that interesting. Eve talks a lot, so much so that Adam avoids her as much as possible. Adam seems to be a maintainer and fixes things, keeps things going, doesn't give thought to much beyond what needs to be done now. The two are polar opposites but they learn to live together and come to love each other. Eve adores Adam. Adam sees Eve as the Eden of life.

Maybe I missed something but these diaries seemed somewhat bland. (view spoiler)

I did enjoy the other stories in this book, particularly "The \$30,000 Bequest", "Was it Heaven? Or Hell?" and "Edward Mills and George Benton: A Tale". This last one was quite disturbing and so "today" in many ways.

Caitlin says

I mostly read this for The Diaries of Adam and Eve, which deserves 5 stars. Overall though, this collection of short stories felt more like 4 stars.

Bengü says

Bekledi'im gibi çok ?a?al? ve ilgimi uyand?ran,beni güldüren bir kitap olmad? maalesef.Adem ile Havva'n'n güncesini ayr? ayr? be?endim ama pek ba?lant?l? de?illerdi,bu sebeple kafam baya kar??t?.?kisi de ayr? hikayeleri anlat?yordu.Adem ile Havva'n'n Güncesi'nden sonraki bir -iki hikayeyi ya be?endim ya be?enmedim,di?erlerini de hiç sevmedim.Kitab? bu kadar beklentiyle okumasayd?m belki be?enebilece'im bir kitap olurdu,bilmiyorum.Belki de çok yanl?? ?eyler beklemi?imdir.Bu yazar?n ba?ka kitaplar?n? da okuyaca??m ama uzunca bir süre elim gitmez san?r?m.????

Gri Limanlar says

Bu yorumda bir farklılık yapaca??m ve önce kitabın çevirisinden bahsedece?im. Mark Twain'in bu yapıt?n? Ak?it Göktürk'ün tercümesiyle okudum ve çok memnun kald?m. Eser mizahi bir dille yaz?lm?? ve bence böyle kitaplar? dilimize çevirmek çok daha zor. S?rf kötü çeviri yüzünden anlayamad??m ve yar?m bırakmak istedi'im çok kitap olmu?tur. Adem ile Havva'n'n Güncesi'nin bunlardan biri olmad??n? özellikle belirtmek istedim.

Kitap çe?itli öykülerden oluşuyor ve bunlardan en uzun ve en güzeli, kitaba ismini veren hikaye. Bütün semavi dinlerde insano?lunun atalar? olarak anlat?lan Adem ile Havva'n'n Cennet'teki ve dünyadaki maceralar?n?, asl'nda ne kadar farklı yarad?l?ta olduklar?n?, ?eytan'ın hikayedeki rolünü ve dü?üncelerini, i?in içine ele?tiri ve çe?itli espriler katarak kendince yorumlam?? yazar. Adem ile Havva o kadar tatlılar ki öyküde. Birbirlerinden, -özellikle Adem Havva'dan – sürekli ?ikayetçiler. Birbirlerini anlayam?yorlar ama birbirlerine de bir o kadar ba?lılar. Öyküyü okurken yüzümde bir gülümseme vardı genelde.

Di?er öykülerden de Sa? m? Ölü mü ve 1.000.000'luk Banknot'u sevdim özellikle. Sa? m? Ölü mü de benim de çok ele?tirdi'im bir konuyu ele alm?? Twain. Sanatçılar?n sa?ken ilgi görmemesi ve öldükten sonra eserlerinin birden kıymete binmesi yazara parlak bir fikir vermi? ve güzel bir öykü ç?km?? ortaya. 1.000.000'luk Banknot'ta da merak unsuru hat safhadaydı. Hikayenin kahraman? çok zor bir maceraya atıldı? ve paran?n -gerçekte olsa da olmasa da- insana hangi kap?lar? açabilece?ini trajikomik bir ?ekilde gösterdi.

K?sacas?, sevdi'im bir kitap oldu Adem ile Havva'n'n Güncesi ve Seçme Öyküler. Toplumsal hayata dair sizi gülümsetecek ve dü?ündürecek bir ?eyler ararsanız, bu kitap tam size göre.

Tashia says

I believe I won this on Goodreads from a while back. Anyway, the diaries portion for Adam and Eve was quite entertaining. The remainder of the book was so so.

Bonnie Atkinson says

Absolute twaddle. I've never had much respect for entertainment without weight, a writer's version of

slapstick (or talking just to see how clever one sounds, like listening to Gilmore Girls). Shame on Twain.

Zach Pappas says

I believe that the purpose of this book is to have some fun with Christianity as a whole. Mark Twain does not state this directly but if you just read the first extract of Adam's diary then you will realize that he is making jokes towards the Bible. This book is written from the point of view of Adam and Eve because it is written from their diaries. The audience that this book is aimed for is someone who enjoys entertaining literature to read.

I believe that all of the themes that can be seen in this book all come back to one subject, and that is religion, or at least to most religions of the world. This would make sense because this book is all about Adam and Eve and the adventures and stories they have. A major theme that is taken from this book is that religious stories can be written in a way that makes them humorous. A quote supporting this is "This creature with the long hair is a good deal in the way." When Adam says this he is talking of this lady we know as Eve. Another quote from later in the story is "Built me a shelter against the rain, but could not have it to myself in peace. The new creature intruded." Another theme found in this book is that carefulness is important otherwise it could hurt you or others around you. "She says that the snakes advises her to try the fruit..." "...It would introduce death into the new world." If she isn't careful she is introducing the bad thing called death into this world. "I had made a good deal of fire-dust I emptied it into a handful of dry brown grass." This caused a fire, which hadn't been in the world yet and this introduced it to the world. Another theme seen in this story is to love people always no matter what. There were times in this book where Adam was mad at Eve yet he still loved her. "Yes, I think I love him merely because he is mine and is masculine."

This book is written in a narrative style. This book is a series of events describing what is happening and is written in chronological order. Twain uses many literary devices to enforce the foundation of the narrative style. He uses dramatic irony throughout the story. "She has taken up with a snake now." This specific example was used to make more humor and irony in this story because the audience knows that the snake is bad. Another device that is used in this story is Imagery. "The golden islands floating in crimson seas at sunset." This is a way that Twain uses for the reader to visualize what is going on and letting them see for themselves what is going on. It is used to help someone visualize the beauty of what is going on. Throughout the whole story Twain uses satire as another literary device. Satire is used to make fun of things and can be seen being used through the whole story.

In my opinion this is a book that is one of the best books that I have ever read that was a comedy. This book is very well written and is enjoyable to read and to discuss with others. I like how Twain uses many things to help support what he is trying to write. He uses many things that support his funny writing in this story. There aren't many things that I dislike in this story. Really the only thing that I don't like in this story is that it isn't long and can be read very fast, this is a book that I would like to read more and more of. If I could change anything, I would make the book longer, but sadly to do that I would have to become Mark Twain to be able to write more. Also the story of Adam and Eve had ended and could not be continued. This is like no other book I have read because I have never read a comedy before and I don't think that I will ever read one like this again.

Julia says

This comment from a reviewer speaks to my feelings for this slim volume:

"Mark Twain first wrote the Extracts from Adam's Diary in 1904, and then Eve's Diary on 1905. Both pieces were brought together in book format in 1906. It seems that Adam was based on Twain himself, and Eve on his wife, Livy, who died in June 1904, right before he wrote the Diaries. They are seen as a posthumous love-letter to Livy, so you can tell the work is very personal, and has nothing to do with Twain's religious beliefs, and most certainly should not be judged for the author's use of stereotypes of women and men. It's nothing but a sweet, humorous, ironic and lighthearted account of the first man and woman on Earth, of how they discovered each other, perceived each other, and grew to treasure each other's presence more than they ever treasured the Garden of Eden."

<http://www.allfantasyworlds.com/2013/...>

The afterword in my copy, by Don E. Roberts, is a touching reminder that this slim volume is really a posthumous love letter to his wife, Livy. Their story is a wonder in itself, and I want to learn more about them. William Dean Howells, in his book *My Mark Twain*, has this beautiful description of Livy (Olivia)--who always called her husband "Youth". Howells says: "I make bold to speak of the love between them, because without it I could not make him known to others as he was to me....She was in a way the loveliest person I have ever seen, the gentlest, the kindest...He was a youth to the end of his days, the heart of a boy with the head of a sage."

Livy died in 1904, and Twain wrote to his brother: "I am a man without a country. Wherever Livy was, that was my country." This certainly echoes Adam's last line in the book: "Wherever she was, THERE was Eden." So while I still enjoyed the chuckles of this small volume, it has become much more poignant to me as I learned more of the love of Twain for his wife.

Yes, this is a quick read, and funny, and all that. To me, it's much more. Eve's words, after they are driven from the garden, reflect Twain's own outcry: "What had we done? We meant no harm. We were ignorant and did as any other children might do....We did not know right from wrong--how should we know? We could not, without the Moral Sense; it was not possible. If we had been given the Moral Sense first--ah, that would have been fairer, that would have been kinder. Then we should be to blame if we disobeyed. But to say to us poor ignorant children words which we could not understand and then punish us because we did not do as we were told--ah, how can that be justified."

That cry would be echoed throughout time by other writers, especially the Existentialists.

Ahmet Toköz says

San'r?m yazar?n yay?nlanad??? ilk öyküsü de bu kitapta.

Merve Özcan says

Harika bir kitapt?. Birkaç k?sa hikayeyi okumakta bile zorland?m ama "Adem ile Havva", "1.000.000'lük Banknot", "Sa? m? Ölü Mü" harikaydı? bence. Adem'den sonra k?sa hikayelerin s?ralamaları? daha farklı?

olabilirdi ama vardır editörün bir bildiği. Kesinlikle okuyun.

Sirunmanug says

Adem ile Havva'nın Güncesinin ardından gelen her hikayede kendimizi inandırıyor muyuz yalanlar ne kadar güzel, ne kadar samimi uydurduğumuzu çok güzel yazıyor ya dökmü? Mark Twain. Adem ile Havva'nın güncesi ise kadın-erkek, önce-sonra kavramları irdeliyor. Akla gelmeyecek yaklaşımlar, eyleceli anlatımlar ve kendimizi nasıl ikna ediyoruz irdelemeleri ile güzel bir hikaye.

Selçuk Kılıç says

Bir gün kütüphanede dolaşırken Amerikan edebiyatı kısmında duraksadım bir kez, arkadaş ile konuuyordu: Amerika ne ki edebiyatı ne olsun. Küçümsemişti. Bugün Amerikan edebiyatına ait ilk eseri okudum. Bugüne kadar hep filmlerini izledim ilk kitap bu öykü kitabı oldu. Çok beğendim. Zaten öykü sever biriydim. Twain mizah yazarı kitap güzel komik hikayelerden oluşuyor. Kitabın huzur verici bir özelliği var. En beğendiğim öyküler 1,000,000 luk banknot ve sağı mı ölü mü.

Naser Imran Hossain says

As I mentioned in my previous review, lately I was finding it almost impossible to go through a long, symbolic and somewhat ponderous book, like "Shantaram". I guess that is why slim, wry and illustrated novels became a real favorite of mine recently. This book from Mark Twain is one of the hidden gems that I've come across in this strange passage of book reading in my life. I grew up reading children's books like the Adventures of Tom Sawyer and Huckleberry Finn, also written by Twain and was absolutely transfixed by the journey that the narrative of these books provided. Little did I know that one of the greatest novelists and authors of the last 200 years had an uncanny forte for writing droll satires of the utmost literary value, this book, the excerpts of the Diary of Adam and Eve being one of them.

Where do I start about this book. Everything that Twain mentioned in it's pages, with humorous, egoistic and sometimes even misogynist undertones are true to this date, both about man and woman. The dilemmas and contradictions that he drew between the male and female psyche might appear insulting to a romanticist, but to a realist they are true to the core. Twain's portrayal of the first man and woman created in the heavens, their loving bereavement towards each other, their unintelligibility of each other's "Strange customs and behaviors" have almost certainly been carried over to their progeny, the modern humans. While Adam was portrayed as a cold, realistic, heartless and cynical ruler of things, the character of Eve was written as a young, inquisitive, caring and lover of the nature and it's animals. In due time, the first humans find a childish attraction towards each other, something they can't explain, and something that is sealed even stronger by the arrival of the first child, "Cain". Apparently an immaculate find in the woods, I think Twain purposefully hid the source of the original sin, leaving the readers to think "Is there really any sin being committed in heaven at all or what?"

The whole book ends on a happy note, signified by this single last line from Adam as he witnesses the death of Eve years after falling from heaven, unto earth, because of her sins "Now that she is gone, I know one thing; wheresoever she was, there was Eden."

This is an excellent excellent book. Coupled with the fun illustrations, I have not been so excited about anything recently. Hail Samuel Langhorne Clemens!

Tyler says

Admittedly, my experience of Twain, has thus far only involved his more youthful works of "Tom Sawyer" and "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn"; but this collection of shorter works by the writer, are plainer, more direct, and somewhat void of the crudeness of the narrator in the other pieces I have read.

All these stories are excellent, and delightful to read, but, I would say I enjoyed the Diaries of Adam and Eve the best. It is classic "Twain Humor" , with a wry, drinks-in-a-parlor style of narration. However, the closing entries in the diaries, show the evolution of the relationship between the first man and wife, and speaks volumes of significance involving life and love. In Adam, we have simple man, no time for anything but existence, no thought for anything but practicality. In Eve, we have the sublimity of leisure, the emancipation of frivolous thought. The meanings in the tale are many, and indeed, one could probably glean more than merely the themes Twain intended. He points out that Man and Woman, are very dissimilar creatures. Man little more than a thoughtless beast, who draws on instinct, and in his nature is crude simplicity and cold apathy. Woman, on the other hand, a lover of beauty, a complex thinker and one who is incapable of apathy. Apart they are incomplete; two creatures who can merely endure existence, but not thrive in it. Together--purpose of life is realized. Even in the tragedy of being cast out of Eden, of which Twain's Adam and Eve seem not to care, the two humans find purpose and tempered joy outside of paradise. It proves that we are meant to endeavor to find our other half, and complete nature's plan. And dare I say, it tries to prove that love is not something merely to appear, but where, in the biblical genesis, where our characters lack choice, love is something that can be cultivated.

Anyway, I'm now rambling philosophy, but I would recommend reading these short works by Twain; and you will, absolutely love the Diaries of Adam and Eve. After all, who would not be stricken by the power of Adam's closing entry, referencing his life with Eve: "Wheresoever she was, there was Eden." Love and Companionship, is humanities paradise.
