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Miguel de Unamuno, Ángel Flores (Translator)

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'No Spanish voice was heard during the fifty years of his active intellectual life which could compare with his in the strength of his passion nor in the profound seriousness with which he challenged every complacency...The central idea in all his fiction is the struggle to create faith from doubt and ethics from inner strife.'

Three Exemplary Novels Details

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ferhat says

Son hikayeyi sevdim ama digerleri vasat.

Ekin says

Özellikle son öykü muhte?emdi. S?ra d??? bir yazar.

Ricky says

Not (in fact) three novels but short stories. Each one dealing with issues of interpersonal power featuring three very different, but all very strong personalities. Most readers will find these stories very odd, and the expressions of the relationships anything but true to life, which is (I believe) Unamuno's point.

Mikee says

Three powerful little novellas about love and obsession. This book sat on my shelves for nearly 40 years without ever being opened. Now I look to see more of the author's books in English that I might like ... and there are none. I feel cheated.

Macoco G.M. says

Tres novelas apasionantes.

Cuando más leo de Unamuno más me gusta su estilo.

Thurston Hunger says

In all relationships, the battle of wills carries on, sometimes well concealed, other times made more plain. So it is in these stories from a Spanish writer nearly 100 years ago. I actually cannot trace my footsteps to them, perhaps by way of Borges? Perhaps just luck.

But these stand up decently, if not a bit strident in tone, and an archaic focus on royalty and all of its necessary foibles. The bigger they come...

But the weird flexing of power of brother over brother, of wife over wife, of lover of lover...that is what

lingers for me These three stories have a strange almost Ayn Rand-like flavor. Where these is love allegedly, there is often an overriding sense of possession.

Unsettling in an intriguing manner. This is back before dysfunctional families became common fodder for sitcoms.

Nazlıcan says

Son öykü hariç be?enmedim, be?enemedim. Önsözde vadetti?i hiçbir ?eyi yans?tamam??, ilk iki öykü ise oldukça yavan. Sanki yazm?? olmak için yaz?lm?? gibiydi.

Ana Rînceanu says

I like how interconnected the stories were.

James says

Elegantly simple in language, these three novels probe the elemental forces of human personality. In "Two Mothers" the demonic will of a woman runs amok in a whirlwind of maternal power, while in "The Marquis of Lumbria" another unforgettable heroine steers a violent course through the dense sea of tradition. By contrast, "Nothing Less Than a Man" focuses on a Nietzschean hero, a man who embodies human will deprived of spiritual strength.

Murat G. says

"Bütün mutlu aileler birbirine benzer; her mutsuz aileninse kendine özgü bir mutsuzlu?u vard?r."

- Tolstoy.

En sevdi?im kitaplardan olan Sis , Abel Sánchez ve Tula Teyze kitaplar?n?n yazar? Miguel de Unamuno; bu kitab?nda da da? ta?, fiziksel görünüm tasvir etmeden do?rudan insan ili?kilerine ve karakterlerin duygular?na odaklan?yor ve kendisini bir ç?rp?da okutmay? ba?ar?yor. 20.yüzy?l?n en büyük ili?ki uzman? ve sürükleylecilerinden olan bu adam 21.yüzy?lda ya?asa kesinlikle Türk dizisi senaristi olurdu ve ben onu soluksuz izlerdim.

- Murat G.

ps: Bu kitapta en sevdi?im hikaye ise " Tam bir erkek" adl? son hikaye. Bir ac?mas?zl???m olsa ad?n? Alejandro koyard?m. Ale-ale-jandro, Ale-ale-jandro..(Temsili)

R?dvan says

Çok büyük bir sürpriz de?il. Kitab?n içinde bir önsöz ve 3 tanede k?sa öykü var. Önsöz de hiç enteresan de?il. Egoist bir yazar?n bu kitab? neden ve nas?l yazd??? anlat?l?yor. Büyük yazarlarla kendisini kar??la?t?r?p, k?yaslay?p övünüyor i?te. Öyküler ama çok güzel. (Buradan sonras? kitap özeti gibidir...) ?lk öykü çocu?u olmayan bir kad?n ve kocas? Don Juan ile ilgili. Kad?n varl?kl? ama tüm mal varl??n?n Don Juan'a ait oldu?u zannediliyor. Don Juan ise çok yak??kl?, al?ml? bir erkek. Herkes pe?inde ancak o kar?s?n? çok seviyor. Fakat çocukların olmuyor. Kad?n ise çok bedbaht. Kocas?na bir çocuk vermek istiyor ama olmuyor. Bu durumda kad?n tüm gururunu ayaklar alt?na al?yor ve kocas?nn ba?ka bir kad?nla beraber olmas?na izin veriyor. Hatta ona bir anne aday? bile ayarl?yor. Yani tabiri caizse kendi kocas?na çöpçatanl?k yap?yor. En sonunda bir çocu?u oluyor Don Juan'?n. Ve çocuk olur olmaz eski kar?s?na ko?uyor. Vel has?l? kelam i?ler kar??yor. ?kinci öykü ise yine bir kar-koca hikayesi. Aristokrat bir aile. Ya?l? bir Marki. Bir erkek torun bekliyor ölüm dö?e?inde. Zira k?z? hay?rs?z bir heriften hamile. Bir çocu?u daha var Marki'nin ancak o da k?z. Dolay?s?yla sultanan?n? b?rakabilece?i bir erkek torun istiyor. Ve k?z?n?n erkek çocuk sahibi oldu?unu ö?renir ö?renmez de hayata gözlerini huzur içinde yumuyor. Ancak çok k?sa bir sure sonra anne de ölüyor. Hay?rs?z damat ise f?rsat? de?erlendirip hemen k?z karde?le evleniyor. K?z karde? ise ablas?ndan kalan bu veliaht çocuktan nefret ediyor. Onu k?skan?yor ve i?ler yine kar??yor. Son öykü de yine kar? koca ve çocuk aras?nda geçiyor. Güzeller güzeli b?r k?z var. Babas? uçan ku?a borçlu. K?z?n güzelli?i ise dillere destan. Ve bu güzellik yine ba?a bela. Herkes k?z?n pe?inde. Bütün yak??kl?lar onu istiyor. O ise kendi güzelli?ini kendisinden k?skan?yor. Biraz deli. Sürekli "benimle güzel oldu?um için mi yoksa beni gerçekten sevdikleri için mi beraberler?" diye soruyor, sorguluyor. Ve hain babas? birgün zengin bir herife k?z?n? veriyor. Görücü usulü. Borçlar?n?n kar??l???nda... Ancak k?z adam? sonradan çok seviyor. Çok gururlu bir adam. Sürekli "tam bir erkek" olman?n pe?inde. Kimseye asla boyun e?miyor. "Beni kimse aldatamaz, kimse kand?ramaz, kimse cesaret edemez, ben adam? ne yapar?m be" havalar?nda. Bitirim bi?ey anlayaca??n?z. Gururu kar?s?n? k?skanmas?n? da engelliyor. "Sen kimsinde beni ba?kas?yla aldatacaks?n, cesaret edemezsin" havas? gene. K?z zaten yar?m ak?ll?. Bir de çocukların oluyor ve ard?ndan k?zca??z iyice kafay? yiyor. Hatta t?marhaneyi boyluyor, o derece yani.. Ve tabi i?ler kar??yor. Öyküler çok çok güzel. Ben çok be?endim. Asl?nda birer tiyatro oyunu havas? var üçündede. Ve tabi üçüde kar? koca ve çocuklarınyla ilgili. Ve finaleri anlatmad?m ama içinde finalinde ölümler var. Okunmal?...

Kelli says

Can I give this more than 5 stars? I had never heard of this collection of three short stories or the author before searching for great Spanish literature to prepare for an upcoming trip there. I am certainly thankful

that I found it! de Unamuro's stories are tight studies in interpersonal relationships, especially focusing on power dynamics. There is no fluff, no descriptions of anything outside of the main characters' interactions & thoughts. Even the people outside of the main characters are exceptionally lifeless, being simply accessories to the main characters. While this collection was published in 1930, the intense focus on only the character dynamics lends a timeless feel to them. While cultures may change, people don't and every reader will be able to relate to the struggles of lust, arrogance, jealousy, and love. The tight writing intensifies the passions and leaves the reader feeling as tense and claustrophobic as the characters are. The final story, Nothing Less Than a Man, is now my favorite short story and easily one of the strongest I've ever read. The relationship between Julia and Alejandro, two forces crashing dangerously against one another, is absolutely beautifully written.

Fatih Dönmez says

Öyküleri genel olarak karanlık buldum. 3 hikayeyi de açığçası sevdim. Önsöz konusunda emin değilim. ?? Kültür'ün çevirisisi çok iyidi bu arada.

Metin Yılmaz says

En son öykü ve ikinci öykü etkiledi. Aile, kadın, erkek ilişkileri de?i?ik bir açıdan aktar?lm??.

anđrei says

Alejandro, Alejandro!

Felice Picano says

I have no idea how to properly review or star this book. It's a classic and was translated by Angel Flores, who taught this book in a course I took at Queens College, City University of New York, half a century ago. We read and discussed the first story, The Marques of Lumbria, in Spanish class and it holds up very well. It is a little different from the others in its restraint. The other two novelas, Two Mothers, and Nothing Less Than a Man, are intense even in English. I hope I offend no one when I say they remind me of those televised Novelas I sometimes catch when I want to exercise my foreign languages: they are wild, over the top, and about 1/3rd of the time incredible and 1/3rd of the time all-too credible knowing how crazy people are. Several years ago, while editing a manuscript by a Latino writer who was writing in English, I actually told him, "you can get away with extremes in Spanish that you just cannot do in English without people making fun of you." So what is accepted in one language in terms of tone and emotion is not in others. Lesson learned.

jeremy says

three exemplary novels, so titled with a nod to cervantes, is miguel de unamuno's best known fiction, but is actually comprised of two novellas and a short dramatic piece. unamuno, novelist, playwright, and poet, was a much regarded philosopher and intellectual in early twentieth century spain. perhaps most well known for his non-fiction work, *the tragic sense of life*, unamuno wrote prolifically about the struggles between reason and faith. devoted to his pursuits, unamuno even learned danish in order to read kierkegaard in its original form, and his works are often credited with being forerunners of existentialism.

three exemplary novels is written in spare yet engaging prose. not much for description, unamuno instead focuses on the tension between his characters. in reading this book, one can easily see unamuno's influence on garcía lorca's own works. of the three pieces contained in this book, "nothing less than a man" is easily the strongest, one that "focuses on a truly nietzschean hero, a man who embodies human will deprived of spiritual strength" (angel del rio). written some ninety years ago, these stories retain a clarity that, although not as shocking as they must have seemed upon first publication, still allows us a glimpse into the oft-conflicted morality of the individual.

eva says

claustrophobic & unsettling stories about interpersonal power struggles. the third one seemed more contemporary than the first two in the way it depicted personalities, & i found it particularly engrossing.

Beth says

*The Marquis of Lumbria

*Two Mothers

*Nothing Less Than a Man

Bryan says

These three short stories are not novels in any conventional sense--I'm not sure exactly why they are called such. I don't know what you would call them, but in a way, I think of them more like fairy tales.

Nomenclature aside, I enjoyed them a lot, although I think I would have to read them again to begin to unpack them for meaning. Very minimalist, and no doubt highly influenced by the unrest in Spain leading up to the Civil War--not that these are political tales in any way; they are stories of families struggling with tradition and their reputation. But as the struggles in Spain seemed to me related less to political ends and more toward individual values, stories of family discord might be as good a way to portray the larger disagreements as any.

A side note--*Three Exemplary Novels* was published in 1920, a decade-and-a-half before the Civil War, but I couldn't help thinking of the troubles that were still to come while reading these stories. To the extent that

they are allegories, they may be aimed more at the individual, but then it was these same individuals that were caught up in the war several years later, so, in a way, it amounts to the same thing.

Still, I think they are intriguing--and something for my 're-read list' someday, and I'll keep my eye out for more Unamuno in the future.
