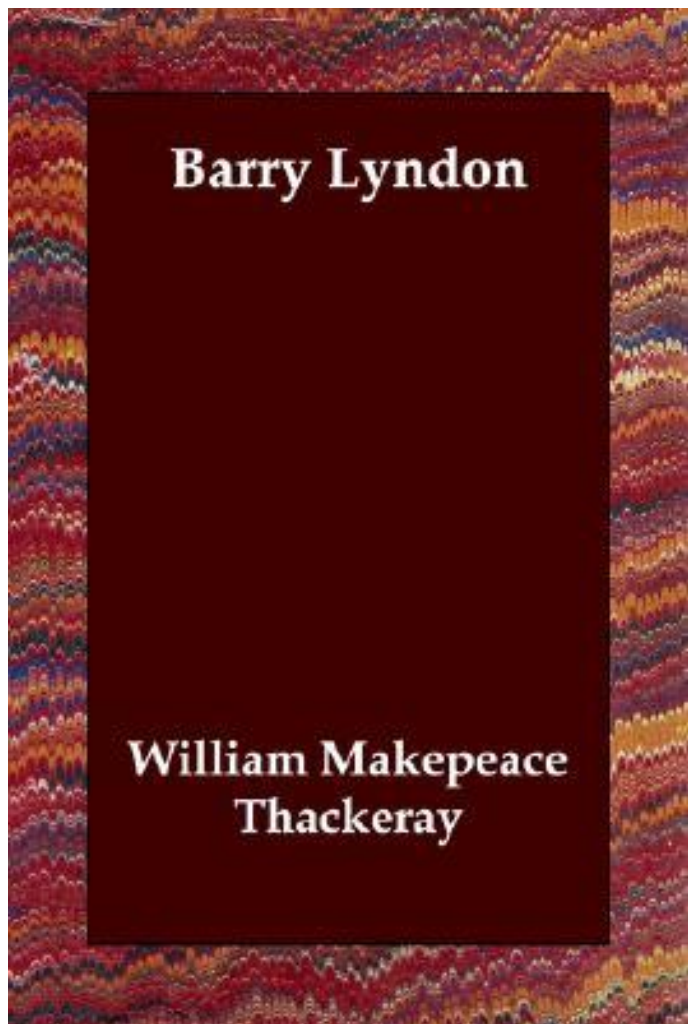

William Makepeace Thackeray

Barry Lyndon



Title: Barry Lyndon

Author: William Makepeace Thackeray

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Description

Set in late 18th century Europe the adventures and mis-adventures of a minor member of the Irish gentry trying to better himself. Redmond Barry of Bally Barry is a clever young man, who learns the manners of a gentleman. This serves him well, for the next few decades he meanders through Europe, as a soldier, mercenary, gambler, and vagabond. He reaches the pinnacle of worldly success by marriage to an English heiress, but disastrously squanders her fortune and good will.

In 1975 Stanley Kubrick released a movie based on this novel.

Insightful reviews

Sandra: Esco esasperata ma contenta dalla lettura di questo romanzo. Esasperata perché il protagonista mi ha infastidito, innervosito, fino a farsi odiare, per cui il finale che gli spetta mi ha soddisfatto. Però....

La duplicità di sensazioni sopra descritta mi ha accompagnato fino alla fine, con prevalenza a momenti dell'una e a momenti dell'altra. Thackeray si è divertito a creare un Barry Lyndon tronfio, bugiardo, vanesio, giocatore incallito, ubriacone, spendaccione, manesco, ignorante, un immorale insomma, che si racconta come il più angelico e candido individuo che ci sia sulla faccia della terra, l'ultimo gentiluomo in circolazione dopo il tramonto di quel buon tempo antico in Europa, "prima che la vigliaccheria dell'aristocrazia francese, in quella vergognosa Rivoluzione che l'ha servita a dovere, portasse discredito e rovina" sulla classe nobile cui lui si fregia (proditoriamente) di appartenere. Non è però la negatività dell'eroe al contrario Barry Lyndon a dare fastidio; ciò che mi ha esasperato è il suo continuo autogiustificarsi, il costante attribuire ad altri le colpe di come lui si comporta (perché mi ha ricordato il comportamento infantile degli alunni che sono sempre pronti ad autogiustificare le loro mancanze e ad accusare gli altri, inventandosi una catena di responsabilità che fa risalire il non aver fatto i compiti assegnati alla mela che Eva porse ad Adamo nel paradiso terrestre, e che mi fa letteralmente perdere il lume della ragione). Il gioco riesce benissimo, perché la lettura è, nonostante tutto -o meglio proprio grazie alla scelta di Thackeray di far raccontare in prima persona al ribaldo le sue malefatte sempre accompagnate da idonea giustificazione-, spassosa e coinvolgente a tal punto che anche se lo odi ti capita di guardarlo con occhio indulgente in certi momenti, fino a riflettere, alla fine, sul fatto che chi ha trasformato quel giovane contadinello irlandese in un mostro di perfidia è quella società dissoluta e corrotta in cui ognuno mente, "mente il povero per avere una mancia dal ricco, mente chi è nel giusto, perché anche lui deve tenere discorsi arzigogolati", in cui "chiamate onorevole il dottore, il cerusico pretenzioso, che non crede nelle ricette che prescrive e prende le vostre ghinee per dirvi all'orecchio che è proprio una bella giornata" e "chiamate onorevole la professione legale in cui un uomo mente per qualsiasi offerta", che è invece pronta a condannare un gentiluomo pieno di coraggio la cui esistenza è costellata di sfide affidate al Destino.

Chris: Unreliable narration and satire at its finest because Thackeray refuses to relent on either. Barry Lyndon is the unrepentent bully: the man who cannot see himself in the wrong, unless it were to his advantage to see himself so. His charisma, disregard for social convention, and

appetite for revenge make this an entertaining read, despite the darkness of the protagonist. More important, Lyndon's unthinking comments on war, class and money are sharp and relevant.

Oddly, when reading this I was reminded mostly of mega-corporations: their vicious competitiveness, their distancing themselves from their victims, their disregard for what is human, and their deflections.

What makes the novel a great novel is that Thackeray leaves us knowing that the fall of Barry Lyndon leaves behind many who are just as greedy and without conscience, but more cowardly; and that the hero who defeats Lyndon is made of similar history and character.

Lazarus P Badpenny Esq: "...Mr. Barry Lyndon is as unprincipled a personage as ever has figured at the head of a history, and as the public will persist in having a moral appended to such tales, we beg here respectfully to declare that we take the moral of the story of Barry Lyndon, Esquire, to be, - that worldly success is by no means the consequence of virtue; that if it is effected by honesty sometimes, it is attained by selfishness and roguery still oftener; and that our anger at seeing rascals prosper and good men frequently unlucky, is founded on a gross and unreasonable idea of what good fortune really is." p.278

Margaret: Barry Lyndon is a classically "unreliable narrator". he is an Irish rogue who joins the British military after an unsatisfied love affair after which is going directly to status and fortune as a modern gambler. As in self-importance Fair, Thackeray is drawn to representing his characters effectively and realistically, and his portrayal of the dissolute, amoral Barry, a rake who thinks he is a prince between men, is masterful.

Helen Grant: The eponymous Barry Lyndon is the final word unreliable narrator; as he lies, swindles, fights, gambles and flirts his manner throughout past due 18th century Europe he always offers himself in an unfeasibly flattering light. This makes for an wonderful and fun novel, even though taken objectively the "hero" isn't in any respect likeable. the executive pleasures of this publication are studying among the strains to the unsavoury truth, and the energetic wit - I laughed greatly at words like "a lady with out extra good looks than yonder bullock"! I additionally loved examining a unique that laid out the seamier facet of 18th C existence in wonderful detail. the disadvantage of the e-book is perhaps that Barry himself is actually so unpleasant. he's not an anti hero you could rather love. However, the booklet is exciting sufficient to hold the reader via to the top regardless. NB i believe presumptuous giving Thackeray lower than five stars yet I do imagine self-importance reasonable is a greater ebook than this one so i'll anyway!

Kenneth Starcher: the muse for Stanley Kubrick's excellent movement picture, William Makepeace Thackeray's novel could be a bit tedious at times. Really, merely the 1st 3rd and the final 3rd of the radical fairly function a foundation for Kubrick's film. there are many variations from the film, and in the entire cases, the movie is superior. such a lot impressive is the rather assorted ending. Still, i feel any fan of the movie should still take some time and skim this book. it is difficult, as Thackeray writes with the previous international kind we're not used to today. His writing is full of a satire of the times, though, which make him stand out between different

authors.

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