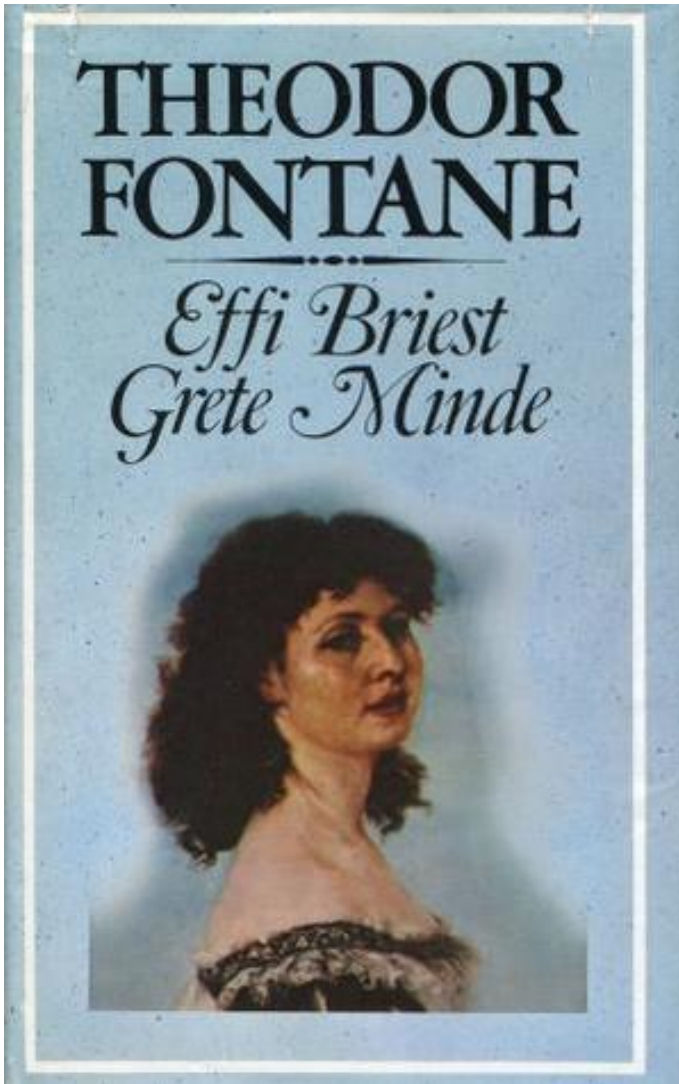


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# Theodor Fontane

## Effi Briest



Title: Effi Briest

Author: Theodor Fontane

Format: Hardcover

Language: German

Pages: 423

Publisher: , 0

ISBN: 3811825941

Format: PDF / Kindle / ePub

Size: 5.3 MB

Download: allowed

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## Description

Fontane's enchanting seventeen-year-old heroine, Effi, is married off to Geert von Innstetten, an austere, workaholic civil servant twice her age. Set in Bismarck's Germany, this luminous and moving tale of a socially suitable but emotionally disastrous match, shifts from childhood idyll in Brandenburg, to a remote Baltic port and back to Imperial Berlin.

With Effi Briest, Fontane brilliantly demonstrates the truth of his comment that 'women's stories are generally far more interesting'. His taut, ironic narrative depicts a world where sexuality and the will to enjoy life are stifled by narrow-mindedness and circumstance. And in his humane, unsentimental portrait of Effi, who refuses to bow to convention, he offers us a reading experience that is at once touching and unsettling.

## Insightful reviews

Edward: *Introduction*  
*Translator's Note*

--Effi Briest

*Notes*

Quinn Slobodian: It's hard not to think about Madame Bovary when reading this book. But Emma Bovary's desire cut across the mannered poise of the mid-century French gentry. Her fault was believing too much in the novels, that there was a 1:1 relationship between form and substance. She saw the secular Lives of the Saints happening all around her, and the profanity and beauty of it made her swoon. She died dramatically rather than melodramatically. Effi Briest's desire cuts across ethics rather than aesthetics. She wants out of the Prussian law book rather than into the French novel. All that's left is revolt, which by flipping the prescription, does not create anything new, no transcendent moment of becoming the character, only a refuge in another kind of ethics, into the feminine world of the family, the faithful maidservant, and the giant faithful dog. Madame Bovary gave hope that there might be something more, while Effi Briest only reassures us that resistance leads to a dead end. It's much more depressing (and realistic?) for it.

su hyung: first world existential problems from some spoiled girl in ancient germany. had to write a test about it back in german high school. barely finished it after trying to read it - 3-4 times I had to start again. Mindbendingly horrendous.

James: one of many chic good points of the novel, as an inventive medium, is its skill to carry readers into touch with various old and resourceful worlds. Effie Briest not just brings us into touch with a distant, alien world, it paints in refined and bright tones a drama that spells its undoing. Personally, i locate nineteenth century Europe one of many dullest periods in human history. rather a lot was once happening yet whilst it was once an period of poses and pontificating rigidity. And as Nietzsche so sincerely saw: at its roots it was once a vapid, nihilistic

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culture. And but people are human, and feature continuously been so even with the limitations of dwelling in a selected era. Effie Briest, the protagonist of this tragic tale, testifies to this fact. wonderful and charming, she is wedded at an all too early age after which compelled to discover the way to reconcile her zestful self to her a lot older and a little frigid husband, Instetten. Her husband is a guy of principle, a prim Prussian reliable who works for Bismark's government. He's a guy of honor, a serenely indifferent and awkwardly jovial persona; and Effie can't aid yet like him for filling out all of the very important husbandly types of their age. (Forms that, whilst gathered jointly in a single person, turn out really depressingly actual!) But... And there's continually a but! What Fontane paints masterfully is the double-consciousness that Effie and Instetten either have, and which comes via of their usually stressful conversations, conversations the place irony flows at such an severe pitch that usually you must succeed in in the course of the web page and slap the characters for being so inauthentic! Anyway, Fontane's writing is intensely transparent and at acceptable moments even eloquent. as soon as and it slow (and this could be the translation) the discussion did develop into a section wood yet Fontane additionally provides his characters, even the servants, a superbly aphoristic mode of speech that sometimes yields an excellent witticism or keen, ethical insight. Overall, however, this can be a novel of decay. As you learn you're installed brain of the silliness that after governed over eu culture. individuals with cash and estates and many servants who pretended to imagine they have been special, etc. it's so silly. And the entire characters during this book, abiding by way of the foundations in their time, someway detect the vacancy of the issues they think in. And the actually powerful, tragic measurement of this novel is located there: within the quiet nihilism that engulfs the characters, one by means of one—each trying to think within the postures they've inherited but, within the end, triumph over by means of the slackening of values that cheapens their honor, the very factor which they have been proficient to have recourse to, and which inwardly, as reports take their toll, they locate more and more rusted via and fossilized... it is a very refined and astonishingly perspicacious novel. the 1st part drags a piece yet halfway via all at once starts off its inexorable descent into robust drama! A classic, worth the read.

Issicratea: I were aspiring to learn this novel for ages, but, while I did, I learn it in a totally beside the point manner, gobbling it down in a single sitting on a long-distance flight within the demeanour of a Dan Brown. That's in no way how it's intended to be consumed; it's a finely crafted, subtle, allusive paintings that merits a way more sufferer reading. I went again on the finish and reread the 1st chapter, saturated in tricks and prefigurings, and that i made up our minds I may still most likely learn the whole lot again. One nice excitement of Fontane's novel (1896) is its thematic area to Madame Bovary (1856) and Anna Karenina (1873-76). when you have learn the opposite two, you might want to definitely learn this, if just for the pleasures of comparison. It's a long way much less savage than Flaubert's novel and no more impassioned than Tolstoy's, and in many ways extra smooth than both (as you could wager from the dates). It's really thinly textured and minimalist for a nineteenth-century novel—hence my having the ability to knock it off in a seven-hour flight—but it calls for a great deal of parsing from the reader. It's the type of novel that has you rifling again via your reminiscence after studying it, attempting to determine precisely what was once occurring at every one moment. i will see why teachers love Fontane. Here is an instance of the work's ambiguity. The advent to the variation I learn (by Helen Chambers, in Penguin Classics) describes Effie as a delightful, life-force-filled creature, and her older husband Instetten as a dry, oppressive, sexless, virtually Casaubon-like

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figure, who makes an attempt to manage her. This stunned me while I learn it (retrospectively); it wasn't how I reacted to those figures. For one thing, Instetten turns out as a lot of a sufferer as Effi is. It's challenging to understand who destroys whom within the novel. For another, I discovered Instetten a interestingly evasive character, demanding to pin down. Chambers looked as if it would take very heavily a selected interpretation of his activities recommend in the novel (that he cynically exploits a ghost tale which will exert keep watch over over his naïve younger wife). but that interpretation originates with Effi's would-be seducer Crampas, and Effi turns out to think it in part out of undesirable faith. Filtering out these filters, I easily don't imagine we've got sufficient details to choose no matter if Instetten really believes within the haunting or not. Protomodernist ambiguity aside, I discovered Effi Briest attention-grabbing no longer least for its setting. There are scenes in Berlin, however the dominant a part of the unconventional is decided in Kessin, at the Baltic coast in Pomerania, at the outermost fringes of Prussia. Kessin is intriguingly portrayed, as a city of drifters, at the fringe of the recognized universe—surreal and out of kilter in every kind of ways. while Effi arrives at her marital home, she is disconcerted to work out a filled shark and a crocodile swinging above her head within the hall, a element that turns out to set the tone for her lifestyles there. this is often conventional nineteenth-century novel territory—brutal type distinctions, brittle kinfolk relationships—but given a unusual spin by way of its unexpected setting. I can't suggest it enough.

Leah: "Effi Briest" steckt voller lebhafter Dialoge, langatmiger Landschaftsbeschreibungen und einem auktorialen Erzähler, der nie Kritik ausübt, dem es aber trotzdem gelingt, das veraltete Wertesystem der deutschen Gesellschaft zu Zeiten des Kaiserreiches zu kritisieren. Die Geschichte handelt von Effi Briest, die mit 17 Jahren einen viel zu alten und viel zu ernsten Baron von Instetten heiraten muss und mit ihm auf das Land zieht, in die Nähe der Ostsee, wo sie gelangweilt und unterfordert (ihr Ehemann ist ständig auf der Arbeit) ihr Dasein fristet. Die Gesellschaft in Kessin, der Provinz an der Ostsee, ist viel zu fromm, bald sogar zu kurios und ernst für das junge Mädchen, sodass sie sich in eine Affäre mit dem significant von Crampas flüchtet. Bald darauf wird ihr Ehemann von Instetten in die Großstadt Berlin versetzt und Effi sieht dies als Chance, ein neues Leben zu beginnen und ihre Schuld verjähren zu lassen. Anfangs gelingt ihr dies auch doch bald entdeckt Instetten Briefe von Crampas, Überbleibsel von der Affäre und sieht sich betrogen und gezwungen, den Nebenbuhler zu duellieren. significant von Crampas wird erschossen und stirbt, die Scheidung zwischen Effi und Instetten erfolgt und sie lebt von nun an als gesellschaftlich geächtet. Der Kontakt zu Eltern und Tochter ist ihr untersagt, sie lebt alleine in Berlin. Einzig allein die ehemalige Amme ihres Kindes, Roswitha, schwört ihr Treue und steht ihr zur Seite. Nachdem es doch zu einem Wiedersehen mit ihrer Tochter kommt, stellt Effi fest, dass das variety sich entfremdet hat und erleidet einen Nervenzusammenbruch. Auf Empfehlung des Arztes erlangt sie die Genehmigung ihrer Eltern wieder in Hohen-Cremmen, ihrem Elternhaus, aufgenommen zu werden und verbringt dort ihre letzten Lebensjahre bevor sie jung stirbt. "Effi Briest" wurde mir nie wirklich empfohlen, nein, ich wurde sogar davor gewarnt, dieses Buch zu lesen. Stimmen wie "Das langweilste Buch, das ich je gelesen habe" oder "So langweilig, dass ich nicht eine Seite weiterlesen konnte" wurden laut. Ich kann dem jedoch nicht ganz zustimmen. Zu allererst battle ich überhaupt nicht begeistert von dem Schreibstil, viel zu genaue Beschreibungen, die meiner Meinung nach nicht nötig waren und langweilige, überhebliche Charaktere. Ich konnte nicht einmal mit Effi sympathisieren, die mir nur verwöhnt und schwach vorkam. Nach etwa a hundred Seiten Lektüre, hat sich meine Einstellung zu "Effi Briest" aber schlagartig verändert, die

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Landschaftsbeschreibungen, die mir sonst so überflüssig erschienen, stecken voller Dingsymbole und Leitmotive, die für die Kritik an der Gesellschaft entscheidend sind, denn der auktoriale Erzähler nimmt in diesem Roman keinen direkten Einfluss darauf und lässt die Bidlichkeit und Metaphorik für sich alleine sprechen. Bei einem zweiten Lesen würde ich sicher feststellen wie viel leichter und wie viel schöner das Buch ist, nachdem guy sich vollends damit "angefreundet" hat. Der Stil des Buches ist geprägt von einem auktorialen Erzähler, der die persönliche Nähe zu den Figuren herstellt, indem er sie selbst sprechen lässt. Die Dialoge gehören zu den besten, die ich je gelesen habe. Sie sind oftmals klug und witzig und entblößen auf sarkastische Weise die Schwächen der jeweiligen Figuren, die gerade sprechen. Es gibt wiederkehrende Sätze, die als Leitmotive fungieren und die Oberflächlichkeit so wie das veraltete Wertesystem der Gesellschaft offenlegen. Der Satzesatz von Vater Briest "Das ist ein zu weites Feld", ist bestimmt eines der besten Enden für einen Roman, die ich je gelesen habe. Der Inhalt, der Zwiespalt in dem Effi steht zwischen Pflichtbewusstsein und Leidenschaft, zwischen Verstand und Gefühl, ist vom zeitlosen Charakter, obwohl heute nicht mehr sozial geächtet und von der Gesellschaft losgelöst, ist Effis Schicksal doch verständlich: von Instetten viel zu ernst und viel zu eifersüchtig, viel zu selbstinvoviert, Effi allerdings selbst ist noch viel zu kindlich, viel zu egoistisch, um Komplexes zu verstehen. Vor allem Figuren im Buch haben mich sehr beeindruckt, der Roman enthält viele Nebenfiguren, doch alle so geschickt charakterisiert, dadurch, dass er sie sprechen lässt, das Effis kleine Welt nicht nur grob skizziert wird sondern detaillreich dargestellt ist und zulässt, dass guy ihr Schicksal, ihr Handeln besser versteht. Von Effis Mutter bis hin zu ihrem Vetter oder dem Apotheker Gieshübler weist kein Charakter Lücken auf und ist genausten bis auf seine vielen, kleinen Schwächen ausgearbeitet. Auch im historischen Kontext ist der Roman interessant, denn er verdeutlicht zwischen den Zeilen immer wieder, used to be letztendlich zum 1. Weltkrieg führen musste: Das preußische Wertesystem, den Nationalismus, den Militarismus, das alles schimmert zwischen den Zeilen und in den Gesprächen durch und zeigt auf, wie es zu diesem Krieg kommen konnte. Das einzige, used to be ich wirklich an dem Buch kristieren will, ist, dass es für so ein durchaus interessantes Thema viel zu langweilig geschrieben ist an einigen Stellen und ich mich manchmal bemühen musste, die Augen offen zu halten. Der Schreibstil ist inzwischen nicht mehr für jedermann und auf eine Spannungskurve wird komplett verzichtet: Ganz gradlining wird das Schicksal von Effi dargestellt, ohne große Schnörkel oder ein Klimax, es passiert einfach. Meine Vermutung ist, dass sich das Buch größere Beliebtheit gezeigt hätte, wenn Effi zu Anfang mehr Gefühl gezeigt hätte, denn dies geschieht erst in der Mitte des Romans und bis dahin conflict es auch für mich ein Kampf, das Buch weiterlesen zu wollen. Deshalb erstmal nur vier Sterne. Fazit: Das Durchquälen hat sich gelohnt! Der Satzesatz hat mich begeistert, die Charakterarbeit zeugt von meisterlichen Schreiben und ich würde jedem raten, das Buch durchzulesen - auch wenn es Zeit kostet.

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