

[Free read ebook] Faust (Classic Drama)

Faust (Classic Drama)

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

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#766468 in Books 2011-10-04PDF of discs: 1Formats: Abridged, Audiobook, CDOriginal language:EnglishPDF # 4 5.70 x .90 x 4.90l, .49 Running time: 14353 secondsBinding: Audio CD1 pages | File size: 35.Mb

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe : Faust (Classic Drama) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Faust (Classic Drama):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Four StarsBy jamesgood0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Very abridged; very dissociated; no longer worth itBy xxxxLike Paradise Lost and the Faery Queen, Faust has little appeal to the modern reader. Unable to sustain a reading of Faust, I was hoping this recording would help me see it glories. It didn't. It is very edited (abridged = cut up), and what remains is not interesting. I have a PhD in English literature and have studied the classics more than a little, so I'm not unfamiliar with older genres, many of which I very much like. If you want a less-than-four-hour exposure to Faust to introduce you to the work, use this. But I don't think you'll find your time well spent.4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Wonderful, lyrical, engagingBy Thamrin QuayI was assigned Faust in my freshman Lit. class and remained completely lost from start to finish as I labored through a translation that was authoritative and reportedly faithful word by word, meter by meter and rhyme by rhyme to the original.Now, years later, wanting to redeem myself from that falling on my face I set myself to read Faust again and came upon this recording and decided to start my task by hearing the book. From the moment the first words were spoken I was immersed in this. There is such skill in everything about this production. Every character is played with a voice and dramatization that fills your mind with pictures of the face, the intent, the character, the surroundings. As Dr. Faust sits in his room a clock ticks in the background. Mephistopheles grips your gut, you feel his malcontent in every phrase. And Gretchen? She's read with innocence and wonder.After listening to this over and

over and stopping to transcribe verses I began searching for the text source of the play. I went to iBooks and went one by one through the version available to find the matching text (the version I downloaded from Audible.com did not offer any details of the translation). I found the translation by David Luke available on Google Play and while it was also lyrical, it was not the match. Now I've found the John R. Williams translation in print. His translation is masterful. There is deep evidence that he understands the work and has the facility to bridge between an academic literal translation and a faithful rendering of Goethe masterpiece without requiring that we join a course in German first. This translation and this dramatization have made this great work of art sheer pleasure. Hats off to Mr. Williams and to everyone involved in this project.

Goethe's Faust is one of the pillars of Western literature. This classic drama, using the superb new translation by John R. Williams, presents the story of the scholar Faust, tempted into a contract with the Devil in return for a life of sensuality and power. Enjoyment rules until Faust's emotions are stirred by a meeting with Gretchen, and the tragic outcome brings Part 1 to an end. Part 2, written much later in Goethe's life, places his eponymous hero in a variety of unexpected circumstances, causing Faust to reflect on humanity and its attitudes to life and death.

Goethe's Faust is brought to life in a new abridged translation. Goethe's Faust is one of the masterpieces of the Romantic Age. Part I was completed in 1808, Part II in 1832. The story is best known to the general public as the subject of the Gounod opera of the same name, possibly through the Boito operatic version *Mefistofele*, and perhaps even through the Berlioz episodic *La Damnation de Faust*. Part I of Goethe's Faust is often performed, Part II less so because of its dense concepts and lack of a unified story. Part I, more simply, deals mostly with the Faust-Gretchen romance. To cut to the chase, Naxos AudioBooks has issued a highly abridged dramatized recording of both parts on four CDs with a running time of four hours. Since a complete reading of Part I alone would take about that time, this version is less an abridgment and more selections from the complete plays. But even this little is worth the hearing. A very easy-to-follow translation by John R. Williams is used, from which David Timson drew his adaptation and directed the production. It sounds like the actors are performing on a stage, judging from the footsteps and occasional scraping of furniture. Faust is played by Samuel West, with Toby Jones as a properly sardonic Mephistopheles and Anna Maxwell Martin as the innocent maiden Gretchen, who winds up in prison, insane but ultimately saved by a heavenly host. Derek Jacobi has a few short minutes as The Lord in the Prologue. The incidents in Part II are nearly impossible to follow, and I do wish a narrator had been used at least to announce who was in the scene to follow. I think getting a short synopsis will be of immense help to the listener. And putting one small character in an echo chamber (he is in a bottle, you see) does not help comprehension at all. It would also help to be familiar with tenets of the Romantic writers to appreciate further the philosophy that begins with man must err as long as he strives (The Lord in the Prologue) to the Eternal Feminine draws us on (the last words of Part II). It is all very poetic but very instructive if considered closely. --Brattleboro Reformer - Frank Behrens

Goethe's classic tragedy is here vividly enacted by a talented cast, including Samuel West (Faust), Toby Jones (Mephistopheles) and Derek Jacobi (The Lord). Frustrated with the limitations of mankind, Faust is given the ultimate offer by the Devil incarnate and must live with the consequences of accepting such a bargain. Despite the abridgement, the production is well contained, clear, and nicely executed. Verdict: The performances all shine, with the only faltering owing to the sound mixing. At times, the music and limited sound effects interfere with one's ability to hear the cast clearly, especially given the word patterns of the rhyming schemes. Recommended for fans of dramatisations, classics and plays. --Lance Eaton, Library Journal