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Cyrano De Bergerac

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Cyrano de Bergerac

By Edmond Rostand

Narrated by Grover Gardner



Synopsis

This is Edmond Rostand's immortal play in which chivalry and wit, bravery and love are forever captured in the timeless spirit of romance. Set in Louis XIII's reign, it is the moving and exciting drama of one of the finest swordsmen in France, gallant soldier, brilliant wit, tragic poet-lover with the face of a clown. Rostand's extraordinary lyric powers gave birth to a universal hero--Cyrano De Bergerac--and ensured his own reputation as author of one of the best-loved plays in the literature of the stage. This translation, by the American poet Brian Hooker, is nearly as famous as the original play itself, and is generally considered to be one of the finest English verse translations ever written. --This text refers to the Mass Market Paperback edition.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 4 hours and 28 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Audio Book Contractors, Inc.

Audible.com Release Date: January 25, 2008

Language: English

ASIN: B00138XNN4

Best Sellers Rank: #114 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Fiction & Literature > Drama #713

in Books > Literature & Fiction > Dramas & Plays > Regional & Cultural > European #823

in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Fiction & Literature > Classics

Customer Reviews

I currently own four different translations of Cyrano de Bergerac with another two more on the way. I am truly surprised to see how many new translations are being turned out of this wonderful classic. By far, three of the greatest are Brian Hooker's, Anthony Burgess' and Lowell Blair's. But I wanted to see what was new in the world of Cyrano. Penguin Books is known for its quality and I have seldom been let down. In this case, I felt let down and disappointed. Carol Clark's translation just doesn't seem to have the feel for the character of Cyrano that so many of us have come to know and love. Though she is one of the few who ends the play with the word "panache'," her translation has too many spots that just don't feel the "white plume of freedom" Cyrano spoke of in rebellion to the elite who wore their beauty, grace and flair on the outside and those who sucked up to them. Also, Carol Clark takes liberty in changing meaning in certain key places that I particularly did not

care for at all. Perhaps her only true innovation is the proper gender tense he uses with regard to his sword which he regards as a "she" as in the original French. She gets too many things wrong to be commended for translating a Cyrano that will endure. I believe it is a novelty. Let me emphasize that this is not a "bad" rendering "per se"; I feel strongly that it is just not a good rendering. It's merely AVERAGE, mediocre but as Cyrano believed in striving to be the best in everything, perhaps Carol Clark should have taken a page out of his book? I don't believe it will be any more understandable or accessible to today's reader than older translations and the reader will be losing out on so much with this rendering.

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