Sylvie and Bruno by Lewis Carroll

Sylvie and Bruno is a book written by Lewis Carroll. It is widely considered to be one of the top 100 greatest books of all time. This great novel will surely attract a whole new generation of readers. For many, Sylvie and Bruno is required reading for various courses and curriculums. And for others who simply enjoy reading timeless pieces of classic literature, this gem by Lewis Carroll is highly recommended. Published by Quill Pen Classics and beautifully produced, Sylvie and Bruno would make an ideal gift and it should be a part of everyone's personal library.

Reviews of the Sylvie and Bruno by Lewis Carroll

Quphagie

This was not worth it.
By far, this is not Lewis Carroll at his best. I knew going in that it probably was not as good as Alice in Wonderland but I decided to give it a shot anyway. Now I know.
Unless you are a huge Carroll fan leave this one alone.

Alister
After reading the Alice books, I never imagined Carroll could write a literary failure. Unfortunately, as the introduction of this book so clearly states, Sylvie and Bruno is a literary failure. Why? Perhaps it's too much of an adult book. Perhaps the confusion of the first few chapters throws off too many impatient readers. These possibilities are certainly plausible. But what a shame! The work itself contains so many instances of wonderment that I can't name them all. Like a true craftsman of storytelling, Carroll masterfully walks the line between dream-like fantasy and all-too-familiar reality, swiveling between these two opposing states of being whenever the urge strikes.

One would venture to guess that the narrator is afflicted with Alzheimer's disease. That is, until he actually brings back a tangible souvenir from the dreamworld in the form of a rare Indian flower bouquet, incapable of surviving a lengthy transport to merry old England. Upon participation in this scenario, the open-minded reader begins to question the composition of reality. Are dream worlds filled with magic out there eluding us? Can it be that our steps in the real world are never terribly far from landing on a little fairy? The ponderment of such superstition is indeed rare today, but perhaps it shouldn't be.

Yes, extraordinarily deep questions are raised in this strange book where "actors" do somersaults during dramatizations of Shakespeare and gardeners run around "watering" plants with watering cans as barren as the Sahara Desert. As anyone can see, Carroll didn't seem to have any problems coming up with wild stuff to write. I particularly enjoyed the humor of the crocodile walking on its forehead.

I think the one thing Carroll never gets enough credit for is his use of humor. Sylvie and Bruno is quite funny. I couldn't help laughing at Bruno's story of, "a Mouse and a Crocodile and a Man and a Goat and a Lion." And the Baron's Embassy chapter is comedy gold. Carroll was truly an enlightened individual. I wish we had more like him today.

Carroll was also quite Biblical, and that's evident in this book. While strongly promoting faith in the Bible, he heavily criticizes the practically (I think) defunct method of filling up every Sunday with forced, nonstop preaching, and the far from defunct method of promising financial wealth to people who give. He notes that England's ability to endure such tactics for a whole century while still believing in God is a credit to the goodness of the people there. Unfortunately, a century after the printing of this book, the belief isn't quite as strong as it used to be. Perhaps Carroll's criticisms had some validity.

Carroll had the gift of innovation that is so terribly difficult for most people, including myself, to grasp. What extraordinary value his works have! It's a shame Sylvie and Bruno has so much value and yet so little popular appeal. I just wish Carroll could have shortened the story and wrapped it up in one volume.

I give it four stars objectively, but I like it much, much better than many books I've given five stars too. Definitely one of my all-time favorites.

Oh, and I am pleased to note the following: Carroll writes in the book's introduction that he's very against a technique he calls "padding" - which was later perfected by producer Robert Lippert in the horribly long film Lost Continent. It's so easy

I did not enjoy this book very much.

Lesesshe

I bought this back in 2007, but finally got around reading it.
This book has no preface, no pictures, and the page where a chapter starts has the chapter name but no number.

It also has mistakes, such as repeated sentences. The Chapter Mein Herr seems to appear in two places, and the flow is not there.

As it says, the pages are easy to read. That is very true. However, I would not buy this edition, it is very shoddy work.

Otiel

Sylvie and Bruno is not Carrol’s greatest work by far. It contains elements similar to Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland but the narrator spends the majority of his time in the “reality” world with a friend and the woman he fancies. The dream portion cuts in and out of the storyline with hardly any transitions, so it can be extremely difficult to follow—the book begins in the middle of a sentence for heaven’s sake—but near the middle of the novel, the two storylines collide. The narrator is suddenly able to interact with the title characters for the first time, for no apparent reason, then the characters are integrated into reality, almost ditching the dream storyline completely, and it never goes back! The story “ends” with the narrator leaving the town, but nothing is resolved. Sylvie and Bruno disappear to continue on their own quest, which leaves the reader with nothing to take away.

The Kindle version of this book lacks the illustrations which does take away from the reading experience, but otherwise, it is okay.

OTANO

Makes delightful reading

Keramar

Still a great classic

I enjoy Lewis Carroll very much and do love this a book. It is fun and when the children are present it is very cute.

My only problem with the book is at time it is very boring when the children are not present. If you like philosophy and biblical teachings this maybe the book for you. I personally skip a lot of it because for me it becomes very tedious.

It is refreshing though to have a small break from the fantasy. In all honesty this book is not for everyone but give it a try you may like it.

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