



Faust: Der Tragödie erster und zweiter Teil. Urfaust

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe , Erich Trunz (contributor)

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From Reader Review Faust: Der Tragödie erster und zweiter Teil. Urfaust for online ebook

?tefan Bolea says

Der Teufel als Nihilist:

Ich bin der Geist der stets verneint!
Und das mit Recht; denn alles was entsteht
Ist werth daß es zu Grunde geht;
Drum besser wär's daß nichts entstünde.
So ist denn alles was ihr Sünde,
Zerstörung, kurz das Böse nennt,
Mein eigentliches Element.

Faust, 1, 1388-1344.

Vorbei! ein dummes Wort.
Warum vorbei?
Vorbei und reines Nicht, vollkommnes Einerlei!
Was soll uns denn das ew'ge Schaffen!
Geschaffenes zu nichts hinwegzuraffen!
"Da ist's vorbei!" Was ist daran zu lesen?
Es ist so gut, als wär' es nicht gewesen,
Und treibt sich doch im Kreis, als wenn es wäre.
Ich liebte mir dafür das Ewig-Leere.

Faust, 2, 11596-11603.

I was not at all impressed of Goethe's masterpiece. It's basically about one (old) man who chases two chicks: one that is almost 15 years old and another, a famous dead porn star of the antiquity, Helen of Troy. I can clearly see that the play is modern and perhaps ahead of its time - the avant-guarde modernity consists in the comical, burlesque, absurd elements of the drama. It almost seems that Faust virally creates his own parody. The second part - which I find almost unreadable - appears to have formally influenced the fourth part of Nietzsche's Zarathustra. The relationship between Mephistopheles and Faust may be similar to that between Lestat and Louis. Goethe's conclusion from his eighties is identical with that from his twenties: **It's all about Eros** . Schopenhauer and Freud will add to that later on.

Celine says

Faust is a play consisting of two extremely different parts. My rating reflects that: the first part was a lovely four-star read for me. The second part only gets a meagre two-star rating.

It's rather curious that these parts are somehow supposed to form one narration. They differ from each other like day and night. The first part is funny, entertaining, sarcastic and flexible. The second is rigid, heavy with symbolism and hidden meanings. The first part was easy to read and engaging, the second part was tedious and far-fetched.

Though it's probably the second part that makes *Faust* the "best German book ever", but I didn't enjoy the second half at all. The narration barely makes sense by then, and it's just characters stating ideological statements, in a mythological straight-jacket. It was one of the most forced pieces of fiction I have ever read.

The first, however, was lovely. In that one the Devil has amazing lines that I read to my boyfriend, because they were just that cool. It's in this part that Faust is being a weepy dude, and where he makes a pact with the Devil. They get in all kinds of antics, where the Devil seems more to be a man with a mischievous streak than pure evil.

The second part was just one big ugh. Not even to mention the literal deus ex machina that happens near the end. Not cool, Wolfgang.

Mariana says

This rating was rather difficult for me. I loved the first part, and was more than ready to give it 5 stars, but the second part completely threw me for a loop. I would rate it only two stars - for lack of structure, coherence, character development or even thematic unity. It's called Faust, but hardly even follows Faust at all, focusing instead on an aimless diatribe of Greek mythology that feels utterly pointless to the story the play set out to tell. Very odd; I'll have to read up on Goethe's intentions for it, because right now I'm completely at a loss. It seemed to serve no discernible purpose at all except to allow the poet to show off his education in classic references, making it almost unintelligible to most modern readers I'd imagine. As for producing it on stage, I don't see how! Even as a film script it seems impossible!

Manybooks says

It has indeed been a long time since I read Johann Wolfgang von Goethe's classic, and while I do not have the time (or even the required energy and inclination) to reread all of Faust at present, I can and will state that it is now one of my favourite pieces of German drama (or rather, it has become this slowly, but steadily). The first time I read Faust for an undergraduate university course on specifically Goethe and Schiller (in 1986, thus over thirty years ago), especially the second part proved to be a rather frustrating and even daunting experience (until I began to realise and consider that since it took Goethe almost sixty odd years to complete his masterpiece, perhaps trying to read and understand it, or for that matter, having teachers/professors attempting to make students read Faust in its entirety in a couple of weeks or so, is not conducive to either understanding or appreciating this drama, or even Goethe as an author). And I guess being the only student enrolled in this course, and having thus of course only the professor herself as a possible sounding board and discussion partner did not much help things either (especially since the Goethe and Schiller course, a fourth year advanced literature course that I actually took in my second year, was also my very first sojourn into classic German literature, talk about being thrown into the proverbial deep end of the swimming pool). Now for those of you actually interested in attempting a perusal (either the original German, or one of the many translations that exist), I would strongly suggest and encourage taking one's time. And really, one could also easily and with scant regret stick to the first part of Faust as a play in and of itself, as Faust I is basically its own complete story, the so-called *Gretchentragödie* (the tragedy of Gretchen), if one feels that the second part could likely prove too involved and confounding (I have reread Faust I at least eight times over the past few decades, but have only read the second part, Faust II about three times, with two of these readings being for compulsory university courses I was taking). And finally, as a bit of an add-on, Goethe's so-called Urfaust (which this here edition of Faust contains as well) is also a most interesting read. For while on the surface and in general, it is basically pretty much similar to Faust I (and

thus presents the tragedy of Faust and Gretchen), there are actually quite a number of scenes (and certain lines) which appear in Faust I and do not as yet appear in Urfaust, in Goethe's original manuscript (and for me, the most noticeable and important difference being that in Urfaust, Gretchen is simply shown as having been condemned to death for infanticide, whilst in Faust I, there is heard an angelic voice from above claiming that while Gretchen has perhaps been condemned to be executed by the secular authorities, her admission of her guilt and her refusal of Faust's and Mephisto's offer of escaping from prison, has in fact saved her, has redeemed her soul to heaven).

Marianna says

Emozionante e denso di lirismo, va letto assolutamente per capire di cosa si sta parlando. Lo considero un'opera importantissima, se non imprescindibile per chi vuole conoscere il Romanticismo (tedesco in particolare) e una storia indimenticabile.

Michael says

What's my opinion worth, on this popular and mysterious masterpiece? I'm still not sure I've got my head around it. It is filled with symbols and poetry that I couldn't quite grasp on the first read. This is doubtless partly because of my imperfect German. But I found the play as a whole deeply moving, and the parts that I did understand I found deeply intelligent. This is a text I will certainly revisit, perhaps with the help of some literary scholars to illuminate the darker passages. This is not a book for the faint-hearted. I understand why it is often said to be an unstageable play. But if you have the patience, you will certainly find wit, wisdom and beauty in its pages.

Nora says

Ist ein bißchen arg klischeehaft, das aufzunehmen, aber trotzdem: Eines meiner Lieblingsbücher!

Christina Manolescu says

For lovers of the German language, the original Faust, Part One, is a must-read. I absorbed it with the help of a German dictionary in 1991: a fitting preparation for my 8-month journey to Deutschland.

Valissa says

"I am your comrade:
If you so crave
I am your servant, I am your slave." - Mephistopheles

Matt says

It's a tragedy ... this book ... and also the fact the I have not read it yet. There are a couple of editions in our house and I picked the oldest one (Faust I+II and Urfaust; Deutsche Buch-Gemeinschaft, Berlin, 1924/25). Set in Fraktur (of course) it will be some challenge to even decipher the words.

Burghard says

Just delightful!

Youdid says

Glanzpunkt deutscher Literatur, auch wenn ich die Walpurgisnacht und die Hexenküche abstoßend obszön finde

Alex says

Faust parte I: 5/5
Faust parte II: 2/5

Butterfly2507 says

Einfach wunderbar <3

Lord says

Anyone can read Faust but who can really say that he understand it? I know I don't. For those who seek a little bit enlightenment on this subject, I can recommend the book by Rudolf Steiner "Goethe's Secret Revelation and The Riddle of Faust" and, of course, his other books about Goethe.
