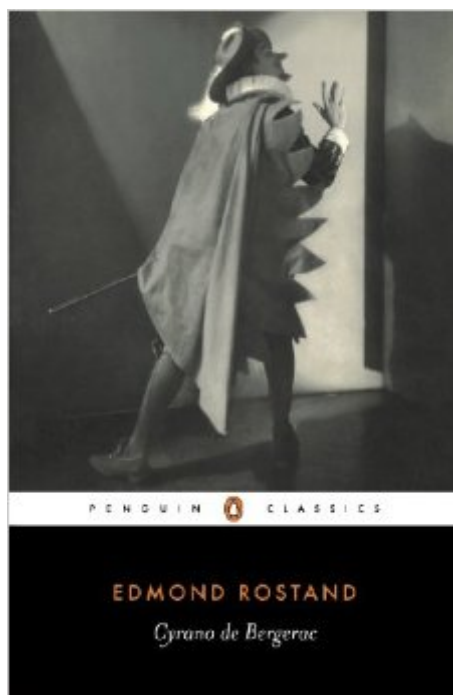


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Cyrano De Bergerac (Penguin Classics)



Synopsis

Poet and soldier, brawler and charmer, Cyrano de Bergerac is desperately in love with Roxane, the most beautiful woman in Paris. But there is one very large problem - he has a nose of stupendous size and believes she will never see past it to return his feelings. So when he discovers that the handsome but tongue-tied Christian is also pining for Roxane, generous Cyrano offers to help by writing exquisite declarations of love for the young man to woo her with. Will she ever recognize who she is really falling in love with? Set during the reign of Louis XIII, Rostand's Cyrano de Bergerac (1897) was one of the great theatrical successes of its time and remains as popular today for its dramatic power and, above all, for its good-natured, passionate and swashbuckling hero.

Book Information

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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 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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