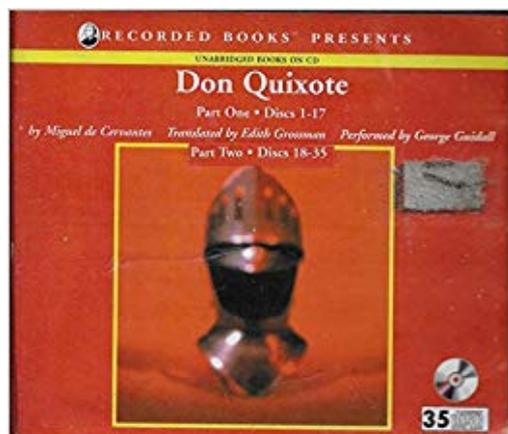


Don Quixote! by Miguel de Cervantes, Edith Grossman, George Guidall



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Don Quixote is the classic story. Called the first modern novel, this marvelous book has stood the test of time to become irrevocably intertwined with the fabric of society. Sixteenth-century Spanish gentleman Don Quixote, fed by his own delusional fantasies, takes to the road in search of chivalrous adventures. But his quest leads to more trouble than triumph. At once humorous, romantic, and sad, Don Quixote is a literary landmark. This fresh edition, by award-winning translator Edith Grossman, brings the tale to life as never before.



Reviews of the Don Quixote! by Miguel de Cervantes, Edith Grossman, George Guidall

Gadar

There's only one original "Quixote", but there are literally dozens of translations, and an almost

infinite number of commentaries about the quality, integrity and appeal of those various translations. But, if you would just like to sit down with a readable and fairly mainstream version there are two free Kindle volumes that offer you a happy choice.

The four "major" translations that are referenced over and over again are by Smollett, Grossman, Putnam, and Raffel. (There are roughly a dozen "minor" but well known and vigorously defended or reviled others.) But, the first translation, which was published in 1612, within just seven years of the release of "Quixote" itself, was by Thomas Shelton. The most popular translation after that, until the "modern" era, was Ormsby's 1885 version.

Happily, Kindle offers a free copy of Ormsby's version. It also offers a kindleunlimited, (and sometimes free as a promotion), copy of Gerald Davis' reworking of the Shelton version.

Some people favor Raffel, (although faulted for being too oversimplified), or Putnam, (faulted for being too colloquial). Grossman is the most modern, but is frequently criticized for taking great liberties and being almost purposefully prolix and obscure. Of course, each translator brought his or her own sense of style, and own sense of the work, to the project, and all of them felt fairly free to put their own authorial stamp on the book. Ormsby is highly regarded because of his scholarly effort to achieve "accuracy". The Davis book is highly regarded, although sometimes relegated to a niche position, because of the translator's attempt to find a middle ground between the Shelton original and a modern reader's sensibilities.

This Kindle Ormsby is the 1885 version, not the Norton update of 1981. But that's fine, since the update modernized some language but didn't change the text dramatically. As a bare public domain version you don't get notes, footnotes, modern annotations and the like. You do, however, get the full text, include Ormsby's analysis of prior translations. The book is formatted well enough and has a basic table of contents. It is readable, if unadorned.

The Kindleunlimited Davis is also barebones, although there is a nice preface by Davis. Again, the formatting and type editing is fine and unfussy. It is also perfectly readable.

I prefer the Davis version, but that really is a matter of personal taste. It is nice to be able to suggest that not only are these two freebies adequate, they do indeed have an honorable place amongst all of the best translations. As a consequence you do not have to lower your standards, or accept an inferior translation, when selecting one of these freebies as your text of choice.

Surprisingly, each Kindle version can be augmented, for a few dollars, with Audible Narration. The Ormsby narration is a bit more energetic, the Davis narration is more solemn. I only sampled them, but both seemed fairly engaging.

Please note, because there are so many editions of each and all of these books, and because Amazon is not at its best when mixing and matching books, editions, and reviews, it's important to mention which books this review refers to. The kindleunlimited Davis displays a white cover and a pencil or engraved image of Don Quixote framed in yellow. It clearly states that it is "The New Translation By Gerald J. Davis". The free Ormsby sports the generic Amazon public domain cover, in brown and buff. Don't mistakenly buy some expensive "collectible" mass market copy, unless that's what you want.

Vichredag

Never a reader in my young years, the desire and effort didn't arrive until I was 60. I began reading

Lee Child/Jack Reacher books. Mindless I suppose, but somehow reading those books fueled a fire in my deep down to read more. Came the time I started reading the classics. Books I was supposed to have read in high school, but found a way to avoid. Regrets come to mind, eh? Anyway, reading the classics for the first time at this age has been a wonderful experience, one I'm not capable of putting words to. That said, *The Adventures of Don Quixote* was an absolutely delightful read. Truly one of my, if not my favorite read of the 1st 60 or so classics I've read in the last two years. Absolutely loved it...

Bolv

Don Quixote, by Cervantes, is a brilliant piece of writing. Written in an eloquent and beautiful language, one which parallels Shakespeare and Homer, this book takes the reader on a journey with Don Quixote, an man past his prime, who lives in a delusional world of knights, beautiful damsels, honor and challenge - who, with his squire, Sancho, takes on imaginary enemies but with real blood and real pain. It is the story of a man who is obsessed with reviving the age of knighthood, who is seen as mad by those he meets, and yet who garners the admiration and support of people as his daring deeds and legend grows and spreads. I cannot compare the quality of this writing, in its depth and richness. It is a part of our language which is being lost to time, and yet, which inspires the mind and the imagination with its tantalizing animation of the vernacular. Cervantes was and remains a master, and *Don Quixote* will resonate through the corridors of time for ages to come, for it is a story with a message about principles, about leadership and about love. If you haven't read it, do so. It enriches the mind and reminds us all that at the time of its publication in 1605, the "modern" world of that age, would experience a transformation in literature, and that ripple continues even now, into our "modern" times.

Kirizius

I do not recommend the book with the ISBN 9781545567630 and the UPC 9781545567630 because this is printed in probably a 6 point text and it is not the entire book. This edition does not provide a table of contents so one must search for a chapter if one must go back to it for reference. This book ends at the end of chapter 20 of volume 1. It is missing chapters 21-52 of volume 1 and all of volume 2 which has 74 chapters.

If you want a good edition of *Don Quijote* then purchase the Norton Critical Edition UPC 9780393972818 ISBN 0-393-97281-X

Tar

What a gem! I had never read *Don Quixote* and I have been surprised and delighted. It is long, for sure, but the evolution of the characters and the subtlety of Cervantes' ploys are so intriguing, so illuminating, that the length seemed almost welcome. I was sad when I finished, as I would no longer have this companion to visit. *Don Quixote* is actually two books. When I completed the first book, I thought I was done. The second book was written later and I thought there was little reason to read a second volume of the story. But I gave it a shot--thought I would read a few pages just to see what book II was like--and of course I could not put it down. Some have criticized this translation so for a short period I side-by-side an earlier translation by Ornsby, which was highly touted. Perhaps the Ornsby translation has scholarly merit but truth be told they differed only slightly and the Grossman translation was much more fun to read. All in all a great book and a great reading experience.

wanderpool

The Kindle edition is filed incorrectly - it is presented as the Grossman translation, but it is not. I don't know if this is a deliberate deception or an error, but it does mean that there is no way to order

a Kindle edition of the Grossman translation. This should really be fixed.

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