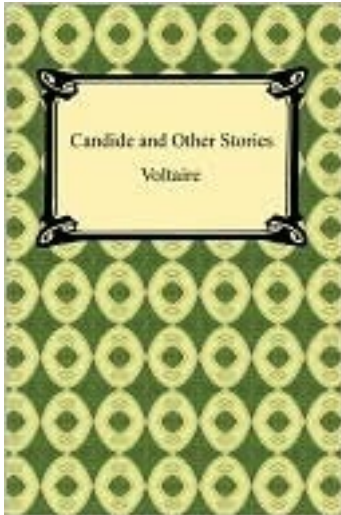

Voltaire

Candide and Other Stories (World's Classics)



Title: Candide and Other Stories (World's Classics)

Author: Voltaire

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Description

Candide is the most famous of Voltaire's "philosophical tales," in which he combined witty improbabilities with the sanest of good sense. First published in 1759, it was an instant bestseller and has come to be regarded as one of the key texts of the Enlightenment. What *Candide* does for chivalric romance, the other tales in this selection--*Micromegas*, *Zadig*, *The Ingenu*, and *The White Bull*--do for science fiction, the Oriental tale, the sentimental novel, and the Old Testament.

The most extensive one-volume selection currently available, this new edition includes a new verse translation of the story Voltaire based on Chaucer's *The Wife of Bath's Tale: What Pleases the Ladies*. Opening with a revised introduction that reflects recent critical debates and including a new section on Voltaire's verse, this edition also features updated translations, revised notes, and an updated bibliography.

Insightful reviews

Lisa (Harmonybites): Voltaire is a famous philosopher of the Enlightenment, and *Candide* his most famous work. It's very short, less than a hundred pages, and the edition I read filled out the book with three other novellas, *Zadig*, *Ingenu*, *The White Bull* and a short story *Micromegas*. Although *Candide* is the most celebrated work in the book, it wasn't necessarily my favorite--but I did find it amusing. *Candide* is a satiric send-up of Leibniz's theory of optimism through Candide's mentor Dr. Pangloss, who believes we live in "the best of all possible worlds" even in the face of increasingly insane disasters. I thought particularly funny the "genealogy of syphilis" where Pangloss traces the lineage of his infection back in a "direct line from one of Christopher Columbus's shipmates." I also rather loved the iconoclastic and grumpy twitting of classics by Pococurante. I might not agree with his lambasting of Homer and Virgil (though I thought he was dead on about Milton) but I agreed with his principle that "Ignorant readers are apt to judge a writer by his reputation. For my part, I read only to please myself. I like nothing but what makes for my purpose."

The short story *Micromegas* deals with giant visitors to Earth from the star Sirius and the planet Saturn and scoffs at humans' self-centeredness. I think I loved *Zadig* the most though. The opening gives a nod to *1,001 Arabian Nights* and tells the story of Zadig of Ancient Babylonia. He offers up a deduction early on that would make Sherlock Holmes proud and enough wisdom to make Solomon feel abashed. I loved the irreverence of *Ingenu* (in another edition known as *Master Simple*). In it a young man raised by the Huron Indians in Quebec confounds others with his reactions to things French, particularly on religious matters. Being convinced to convert to Christianity, for example, he goes about trying to find someone to circumcise him, since that's obviously what the *Bible* requires, then insists the only way for him to be baptized is in a river, and refuses to recognize the authority of the Pope. *The White Bull* is also quite fun, as involved are just about every animal who had a role in the *Bible*--particularly the serpent from Eden whose dialogue with a Princess seems to spoof Milton.

The stories aren't what I expected from what the introduction called "fables of reason" meant to elucidate philosophy. They're not at all dry or inaccessible and were quite fun with lots of lines

I'd be tempted to quote if there weren't so many that were wise, witty and striking. These short satires reminded me quite a bit of Swift's *Gulliver's Travel* only with less bathroom humor and more good-natured.

Sam: Saddened by the great Lisbon earthquake that killed tens of thousands Voltaire penned this classic story of a simple man enduring countless adversities and hanging on to the notion that all works out for the best and that this is the best possible of worlds.

This brand of positivism that was espoused by many including Leibniz was essentially the idea that everything has some good attached to it, even great evil. Voltaire couldn't see how this could be and attacked this in *Candide*. Voltaire hated anyone with a belief in a system. It narrows the mind and closes the door to possibilities. Although he initially admired Leibniz he attacks him with the ridiculous Dr. Pangloss, *Candide*'s philosophical mentor.

Candide lumbers from adventure to adventure with things always going from bad to worse, trying to get back to a state of happiness. His naïveté adds the backdrop to the terrible things that happen to the cast of characters.

Voltaire was somewhat of a marketing genius who launched an early "viral" campaign by simultaneously launching *Candide* at 5 different major European markets. This enabled him to maximize his profit by staying ahead of the black market of forgers and copiers who would take his work and sell it and ahead of the authorities who would not take kindly to this irreverent work that poked fun of the church, war, politics and kings. He figured once the book was out there they wouldn't be able to suppress it. They could try to ban the book but couldn't touch Voltaire once it was widespread and popular.

A really great read with plenty of chuckles. You can see why this humorous story could be quite subversive at the time.

This version came with some additional short stories from Voltaire. There is what might be the first interstellar Sci Fi in *MicroMegas* with 2 creatures from Sirius and Saturn who visit the earth and meet some of the inhabitants. The tale of *Zadig* is the story of a noble man who has to navigate a world of ignoble and deceitful adversaries in Ancient Babylon, the *Ingenu* promotes the myth of the Noble Savage when a Huron comes to rural France while the *White Bull* is a nice mythological love story featuring Nebuchadnezzar during his fall from grace when he was a bull.

Good find on the book shelf. Highly recommend it.

Kyle: garbage book

Martin Hernandez: De este libro solamente recuerdo los primeros dos cuentos, "Cándido" y "Micromegas". "Cándido, o el Optimismo" es una divertidísima sátira de los angeles filosofía positivista de LEIBNIZ, y es un muestrario de los horrores del mundo del siglo XVIII. En *Cándido*, LEIBNIZ está representado por el filósofo Pangloss, instruct del protagonista. A pesar de observar y experimentar una serie de infortunios, Pangloss afirma repetidamente que "todo

sucede para bien" y que vive en "el mejor de los mundos posibles" pero en una serie de aventuras subsecuentes se refuta de forma dramática el famoso precepto, a pesar del obstinamiento con el que el personaje se aferra a éste. VOLTAIRE nunca admitió abiertamente ser el autor de l. a. controvertida novela, los angeles cual está firmada con el seudónimo «Monsieur le docteur Ralph» ("el señor health practitioner Ralph"). "Micromegas" es verdaderamente una obra de ciencia ficción, que apareció en 1752. El cuento describe l. a. visita a los angeles Tierra de un ser originario de un planeta de los angeles estrella Sirio, llamado Micromegas, y de su compañero del planeta Saturno. Uno de los aspectos más curiosos de este cuento es que menciona a los dos satélites del planeta Marte ¡un siglo antes de su descubrimiento oficial! (Asaph corridor los descubre en 1877): «...A salir de Júpiter atravesaron un espacio de cerca de cien millones de leguas, y costearon el planeta Marte, el cual, como todos saben es cinco veces más pequeño que nuestro glóbulo, y vieron dos lunas que sirven a este planeta y no han podido descubrir nuestros astrónomos». Es remarkable que también Jonathan SWIFT, hace lo mismo en "Los Viajes de Gulliver", dando sus distancias al planeta y sus períodos de rotación con gran precisión para los angeles época. Se trata de una coincidencia, puesto que l. a. óptica disponible durante los angeles vida de ambos autores no permitía ver esos cuerpos celestes tan pequeños y que se separan tan poco de los angeles esfera de Marte. Debido a estas coincidencias, los dos mayores cráteres en Deimos (de unos three km. de diámetro cada uno) fueron bautizados como "Swift" y "Voltaire".

Matthew Smothers: for those who love touring and outdated French novels, Voltaire's *Candide* is the e-book for you. should you like confident out seems on love and life, probably you have to go on this. whilst *Candide* is stuck kissing the baron's daughter, Cunégonde, *Candide* is banished from his home. That units in position a chain of adventures that come with traveling, love, deception, and murder. *Candide* has to visit locations like Paris and Turkey between others. rules of Theology, and Philosophy are explored within the novel.

Adriane Devries: *Candide* might be sixteenth-century French thinker Voltaire's so much memorable work. it truly is his anthem of a global view that demanding situations the naïve proposal that each one of man's stricken lifestyles is "the better of all attainable worlds." Voltaire strikes his protagonist *Candide* via each available trauma on hand in his time period: enlistment within the army, beatings, shipwrecking, robbery, torture through the Inquisition, and separation from his liked Cunégonde, for whom all his sufferings began; exposes humanity's corruption in executive and religion; and exhibits the futility within the targets of philosophy, science, or even romance. Having plumbed the depths of worldly pleasures, fancy philosophies and awesome quests, *Candide* eventually resolves, just like the author of *Ecclesiastes*, that every one is uniformly meaningless, and that we needs to accordingly select with creative cause to "cultivate our garden" amidst the detritus of life. "Let's work, then...It is the one method to make existence bearable." although pessimistic at its core, *Candide* was once exceedingly interesting, and infrequently darkly amusing, as was once the author's intent. here's a great and satiric brain that lived 1000s of years in the past that got here to an identical end of the millennia: we elect our mindset, and stay and die upon it, both in pleasure or despair.

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