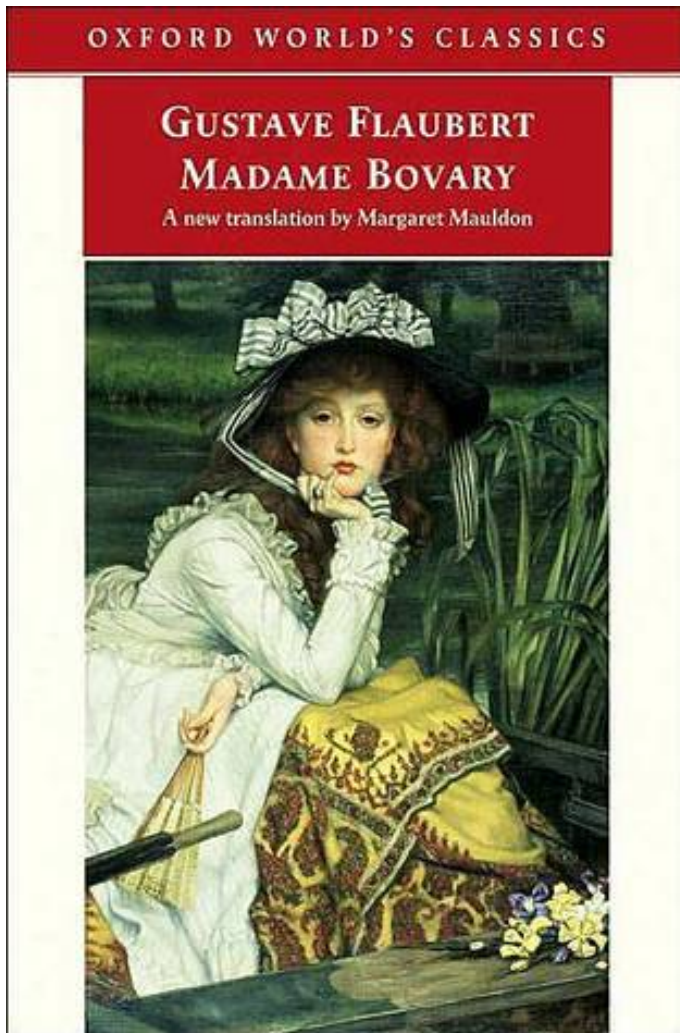

Gustave Flaubert

Madame Bovary



Title: Madame Bovary

Author: Gustave Flaubert

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Description

When Emma Rouault marries Charles Bovary she imagines she will pass into the life of luxury and passion that she reads about in sentimental novels and women's magazines. But Charles is a dull country doctor, and provincial life is very different from the romantic excitement for which she yearns. In her quest to realize her dreams she takes a lover, and begins a devastating spiral into deceit and despair.

Flaubert's novel scandalized its readers when it was first published in 1857, and it remains unsurpassed in its unveiling of character and society.

Insightful reviews

Carmo Santos: **"Só as obras bem escritas não-de passar à posteridade"**
Conde de Buffon

Consta que Gustave Flaubert tenha afirmado - já no final da sua vida - qualquer coisa como: *"eu vou morrer mas a puta da Bovary vai sobreviver"*.

E sobreviveu! Também o levou à barra do tribunal; a sociedade puritana da época não estava preparada para admitir a existência do adultério ou ver questionada a doutrina da igreja, nem a burguesia gostou de ter o dedo apontado na sua direção. Mas o livro sobreviveu, eternizou o autor e mantém-se mais atual do que parece à primeira vista.

Até meio do livro achei exagerado o epíteto atribuído à Bovary. Pareceu-me simplesmente uma rapariga embriagada de sonhos desmedidos, nascidos da leitura de revistas e romances, que aspirava a uma vida de luxo e opulência. (está ou não está actual?!) Aborreceu-se com a vida monótona do campo e desiludiu-se com a simplicidade e falta de objetivos do marido.

Lentamente, foi fechando os olhos à realidade e mergulhando num universo de fantasia. O seu refugio foi também a sua ruína e as suas atitudes fizeram-na merecedora da alcunha.

Tanto ou mais que a história, o livro seduz pela escrita. Profundamente realista, G. Flaubert pinta quadros na nossa imaginação. A narrativa é rica em figuras de estilo, expressiva e fluida. Sendo a personagem principal, são os pecados de Emma Bovary que saltam à vista, mas, na verdade, toda a aldeia de Yonville é uma caricatura dos principais pecadilhos.

As últimas páginas do livro, foram o coroar de glória. O triunfo da ambição desmedida e do oportunismo. Apetece fechar o livro com um estrondo e dizer:

- "Filhos da puta, suplantaram a Bovary!"

Martine: Like every European teenager who takes French at secondary school, I was supposed to read *Madame Bovary* when I was seventeen or so. I chose not to, and boy, am I glad I did. I couldn't possibly have done justice to the richness of Flaubert's writing as a seventeen-year-old. Moreover, I probably would have hated the characters so much that I never would have given the book another chance. Which would have been a shame, as it's really quite deserving of the tremendous reputation it has.

Madame Bovary is the story of Emma Rouault, a mid-nineteenth-century peasant woman who has read too many sentimental novels for her own good. When the hopeless romantic marries

Charles Bovary, a country doctor, she thinks she is going to lead a life full of passion and grandeur, but instead she gets stuck in a provincial town where nothing ever happens. Hell-bent on some escapism and yearning for someone who understands her romantic needs, Emma embarks on two adulterous affairs, plunges herself into debt and ends up very badly indeed, leaving behind a husband who might not have been the dashing hero of her dreams but who most certainly did care about her.

Madame Bovary is most famous for its portrayal of an unfulfilled woman, and indeed it's Emma's ennui and desperate need for romance that the reader will remember. They are described so convincingly that it's hard to believe the author was a man rather than a woman. However, *Madame Bovary* isn't all about one woman going through life dreaming and breaking down every time reality catches up with her. Like other great classics of realism, it's about society – about the social mores and conditions which instil certain kinds of behaviour in people and then punish them for it. Flaubert's depiction of Emma's provincial village (a haven of all that is base and mediocre) is painstakingly detailed and realistic. It's a wonderfully vivid and well-observed account of life in mid-nineteenth-century rural France, where people go about doing their jobs, conducting illicit affairs, gossiping behind each other's backs, ruining each other financially and generally leading lives which are far from exalted. Flaubert's portrayal of his characters is unabashedly vicious and misanthropic, but such is the quality of his writing that you forgive him for taking such a dim view of humanity. There are descriptions in the book (the seduction at the market, the club-foot operation, the endlessly prolonged death from arsenic poisoning) which rank among the best things nineteenth-century realism has to offer – gloriously life-like scenes which make you feel as if you're right there in the thick of things, watching things happen in front of your horrified eyes. And if the whole thing has a tragic and deterministic slant to it, well, so be it. That's realism for you. At least Flaubert has the decency to grant his heroine a few sighs of rapture before her inexorable demise. For it may be a realist novel, but it has some genuinely romantic moments of passion and drama (cab ride through Rouen, anyone?), and is all the better for it.

Ultimately, how you respond to *Madame Bovary* depends on your own susceptibility to romantic notions. If, like Emma Bovary, you're prone to dreams of passion, beauty and perfection, and yearn to feel and experience rather than being stuck in a dreary life in a village where nothing ever happens, chances are you'll be able to relate to Emma and thus see the genius of Flaubert's depiction of her. If, on the other hand, you think that such romantic escapism is a lot of sentimental, self-indulgent claptrap (which it is – that's the tragedy of it!), you probably won't be able to relate to Emma at all, and therefore won't much appreciate her as a tragic heroine. As for myself, I'm definitely in the former camp. If I'd been Emma, I probably would have walked into the same traps that she does. I would have fallen in love with the one neighbour who seems to understand my need for intensity, I would have gone through the same mad cycle of repentance, dissatisfaction and making the same mistakes again, and I probably would have spent a bit too much money in my quest for soul-affirming experiences, as well. My ruin wouldn't have been as complete as Emma's, but it would have been fed by the same dreams and desires. Oh, yes. So don't let anyone tell you *Madame Bovary* is an old-fashioned creature whose dilemmas are no longer relevant to modern readers. There are plenty of people in modern society who are as much in love with romance itself as she is, and not just women, either. And as for discontent, how many people today aren't dissatisfied with their lives because

they don't match the glamorous/exciting lives they see on TV? And how many people today don't rack up huge debts because the magazines they read have led them to believe that they're entitled to more than is within their means? Replace 'sentimental novels' by 'TV', 'movies' and 'magazines', and all of a sudden Emma's cravings won't seem so outdated any more. Quite the contrary; they're as timeless and universal as they ever were. That's the hallmark of a classic – it speaks to us from across a century and a half and shows us ourselves. We may not much like the picture of ourselves, but it's pretty powerful all the same.

I'd give the book four and a half stars if I could, but alas. In the absence of half stars, four stars will have to do, with the assurance that it's well worth another half.

Huda Yahya:



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Steve Sckenda: She strikes us in mysterious ways in which the cold can't fathom. a lady like Emma Bovary is healthier preferred by way of ardent-hearted readers, who know the way

Emma summoned heroines from her books and the way “the lyric host of those unchaste girls begun their refrain in her memory, sister-voices, engaging her.” Nourished through an unbalanced nutrition of romantic books, she merges her personal mind's eye into the tale and sees herself as one in every of literature's nice lovers. Emma believed that “love needed to fall without warning with an exceptional clap of thunder and a lightening flash, a tempest from heaven that falls upon your reasonable devastation, scatters your beliefs like leaves and hurls your soul into the abyss.” for a lady with such voluptuous desires, it's not effortless to be married to a decent, unimaginative, and mediocre doctor. Charles Bovary is a happy guy who wishes little, and Emma perceives a slightly of stupidity in his face. (His identify indicates “bovine”—pertaining to cattle.) Emma attempts to evoke herself to like Charles, and via moonlight she might recite passionate verses and sing depression adagios, however it is misplaced on negative Charles, who thinks in phrases flatter than pavement. more and more aggravated on the approach he alternatives his tooth and gurgles his soup, she laments, “Oh, why, expensive God, did I marry him?” “It appeared as if the entire bitterness of existence was once being served up directly to her plate, and, with the steam off the stew, there got here swirling up from the depths of her soul one of those rancid staleness.” Domestic mediocrity drives her to luxurious fantasies. “Like a shipwrecked sailor, she perused her solitary international with hopeless eyes, looking for a few white sail distant the place the horizon turns to mist.” She starts to fantasize approximately Leon, but, whilst their flirtation ends, it only turns into extra kindling for her desire. “It crackled away brightly, similar to at the Russian steppe, a traveler's gentle left burning at the snow. She rushed towards it, she huddled as much as it, delicately rousing the embers, she went looking for something to maintain it alight.” Emma meets Rodolphe, and so they speak like conspirators concerning the mediocrity of the provincial, yet Rodolphe is an emotional vampire who makes use of his hypnotic language and psychiatric perception into Emma's insecurities to ship Emma's blood making a song via her veins “like rivers of rivers of milk.” He manipulates guileless Emma like a boy carelessly trampling playground grass. Emma endures new unhappiness by means of imagining herself as a saint—a martyr for love. “It appeared that her soul, emerging towards God, will be annihilated in his love, similar to burning incense going up as smoke.” regardless of failure, her brutalized center maintains to go looking for love, and we pace alongside in the direction of this novel's recognized ending. Emma is a sensual Don Quixote on a book-fueled quest for romance the place she is mugged by means of reality. a few critics cite “Madame Bovary” as yet one more instance of a wearying ethical style that feels obliged to smash fallen women, yet in my reading, Emma finally falls prey to predatory enterprise practices and insatiable materialism (a symptom of the vacancy within) instead of to love. via accurately crafted description, Flaubert chronicles the lifetime of a sensual lady misplaced in an international populated through these incapable of sharing her lofty ideals. Flaubert faithfully observes the physical, in which he illuminates the spiritual. not like Flaubert's “le mot juste” and unique particularizations, the characters don't speak much, and after they do, it's always misleading or incompetent. This ebook tempts the convinced to bask in the responsible excitement of judgmentalism. Emma judges Charles; friends pass judgement on Emma; and Flaubert himself radiates disdain for the bourgeoisie and the sentimental. Thus, the sentimentalist in me resents any indifferent cynic, ensconced in irony, who condemns my tribe of romantics, yet books are larger medical professionals than Charles, and the medication for judgmentalism and disdain is deep reading. Stand and count at any place you fall, yet I solid no stones at Emma. “Why castigate the passions? Are they now not the one appealing issues on earth, the resource of heroism, enthusiasm, poetry, music, art, of

everything? i'm a reader, and that i settle for my characters-- as weak, as sensitive, and as needy-- as i locate them. I want my hearts careworn with hearth instead of encrusted with ice. what percentage critical readers are like Emma? Books have carved our hearts open and planted seeds of emotion and adventure that make us super-sensitive to some extent that a few of our nonreading acquaintances (like Charles) can't contemplate. Lay down your stones. Has Emma no longer suffered enough? Woman, there's none left to sentence you. go back thou, on your books of affection and nourish the embers of your ardent heart. subscribe to the unchaste yet natural ladies within the refrain that sings the virtues of the ardent-hearted and the risking of destruction for the respect of love.

RandomAnthony: Madame Bovary, till i spotted the radical at the library shelf on a stressed Friday afternoon, lived in a murky a part of my mind that convoluted Balzac, Henry James, Les Miserables, and Merchant/Ivory movies right into a "Flaubert is like that" misconception. Also, i assumed the ebook was once at the very least 700 pages long. and that i spelled "Madame" as "Madam" in all past correspondence concerning the novel. My perceptions could not were extra off. Madame Bovary is excellent, falling wanting a 5 big name ranking purely simply because i do not supply a shit approximately French social politics or the arguments among the priest and the pharmacist. The translator's notice shows that a large quantity of severe research makes a speciality of Flaubert's work. this does not shock me. are you able to think what percentage time period papers were written round the query as to if or no longer Emma was once a slut? I mean, the time period papers most likely did not use the note "slut" yet that, I think, is the novel's crucial inquiry. and that i may solution within the negative. Emma is unhappy and lonely and determined yet (and this can be controversial) she's brave, too. She does not understand what is she attaining for yet she is familiar with what she's got, day to day, is not working. Charles turns out friendly yet uninteresting and clueless. used to be Emma a shitty mother? Hell yes. Did she cheat on her husband? and not using a doubt. may I blame society for her problems? No, no less than no longer much. Emma made her offerings and lived with the consequences. Do I blame Leon or Rodolphe? No. Ok, perhaps the latter. He was once type of a prick. yet Leon in many ways is an single male Emma. And parts of the emotional connections Leon and Emma create are legitimate and lovely other than for, uh, the very fact they connected in sordid lodges in the back of everyone's back. yet have been they attempting to create meaning? Yes, i believe so. i am completely satisfied i haven't got to write down a time period paper, by means of the way, simply because i would need to return and cite examples from the textual content and i am approach too lazy for that. move learn the book. it isn't 800 pages! And it really is greater than a Merchant/Ivory film. and that i doubt the unconventional may make a great Broadway musical. I swear. I do take factor with Emma's irresponsible monetary decisions. and i am no longer fullyyt happy with her a little bit manic temper swings. Emma wanted an exceptional therapist and a feeling of self open air of the romantic concept that a brand new boyfriend will remedy all her problems. yet what number women and men over the one hundred fifty or so years considering that Flaubert released this e-book envied Emma (at least till the shitstorm) for stepping out of the mundane? i am guessing a lot. Flaubert's outstanding deal with on mental internal discussion incorporates the text. he is in characters' heads as they strategy the professionals and cons, passions and rationalizations, and his research jewelry true. i needed him to concentration solely on Emma and her instant circle, in addition to the various town's characters, I guess, rather than the quite often compelled and extraneous social/political commentary. And what used to be up with that beggar guy? overlook it, i am yes academia is crowded with

dissertations on his disorder and bizarre chants. higher these bad literature scholars than me. remove these minor concerns, as I implied earlier, and Madam Bovary will get 5 stars. I type of are looking to learn it again. best notch. close to masterpiece. pass learn it.

Apatt: i admire to begin a booklet understanding nearly not anything approximately it. With Madame Bovary the one factor I knew was once that it's a French vintage and infrequently brought up one of many all-time nice novels. I knew completely not anything in regards to the plot going in, even though I anticipated it to be established at the eponymous Madame Bovary, whoever she is. I imagined she is maybe a French similar of Jane Eyre or Tess of the d'Urbervilles. i couldn't were extra wrong. The protagonist Emma Bovary seems to be a type of anti-heroine and the radical is so downbeat it makes Tess of the d'Urbervilles seem like 3 males in a Boat. essentially Emma Bovary is a lady who married a lifeless nation surgeon in order that she might go away domestic yet quickly turns into a really determined housewife. the tale is set her infidelity and the results to herself and people round her. She turns out to visualize herself because the protagonist of a cleaning soap opera; this is often it sounds as if from studying an excessive amount of romantic fiction, Fifty colors of gray may were correct up her alley. Her husband Charles Bovary is a hopeless cuckold, a good fellow yet in his manner simply as delusional as his wife. so far as i will inform he's the single sympathetic personality within the novel (not together with his younger daughter Berthe who has only a few conversing parts). issues don't end up good for anyone other than Monsieur Homais the pompous and egotistical chemist. This isn't a simple e-book to learn (or hearken to in my case) as there's not a unmarried personality to empathize with, even the great Charles Bovary is simply too idiotic and delusional to generate a lot sympathy. after all the writer Gustave Flaubert used to be good conscious of this, the reader isn't really purported to like all of them. Their habit and scenario purely serve to express his disapproval of the French society of the time, quite the bourgeoisie and romanticism. The nice appeal of analyzing fiction is to persist with the characters' suggestion techniques that are frequently very alien to my own, to be someone else for a while. i discovered Emma Bovary's mind set very egocentric and immoral yet still really fascinating. regrettably the opposite characters usually are not so fascinating and while Emma is "off stage" the narrative turns into fairly plodding. the interpretation by means of Eleanor Marx-Aveling is sort of readable yet i've got no inspiration how sturdy it truly is as I don't learn French. There are a few great traces like "a call for for funds being, of all of the winds that blow upon love, the coldest and so much destructive" and that i think the unique French model may were extra of a excitement to read, even though i wouldn't commence taking French classes simply to learn this book. The count number of Monte Cristo may perhaps be, yet no longer this one. If you love morality stories this ebook is for you, when you are trying to find a few type of web page turner this isn't it. I listened to Madame Bovary on a loose audiobook from Librivox, regrettably this isn't one among their larger offerings. it's a a number of readers one, and a few of the readers are only lousy and incomprehensible. I needed to complement a couple of chapters in print (e-book) structure to keep on with the narrative of some chapters. should you get Amazon's loose Kindle ebook variation you may get the Audible audiobook with it for \$2.99. I want I had performed that!

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