



Castle Rackrent (Oxford World's Classics)

By Maria Edgeworth

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With her satire on Anglo-Irish landlords in *Castle Rackrent* (1800), Maria Edgeworth pioneered the regional novel and inspired Sir Walter Scott's *Waverley* (1814). Politically risky, stylistically innovative, and wonderfully entertaining, the novel changes the focus of conflict in Ireland from religion to class, and boldly predicts the rise of the Irish Catholic bourgeoisie. The second edition now includes new notes informed by the latest scholarship.

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Castle Rackrent (Oxford World's Classics) By Maria Edgeworth Bibliography

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Editorial Review

Review

Thady Quirk - or "honest Thady" - having lived on the estate of Castle Rackrent for most of his long life, takes it upon himself to "publish the MEMOIRS of the RACKRENT FAMILY." Speaking in Irish vernacular, he describes the masters he and his family have served under: Sir Patrick, who fills his house with guests and drinks himself to death; Sir Murtagh, his heir, a "great lawyer," who refuses - "out of honor" - to pay Sir Patrick's debts; and Sir Kit, who gambles and eventually sells his estate to Thady's son. Through Thady's memories of these landowners (and the tenants who all too often had to pay for the landowners' indulgences) we gain a picture of feudal life in Ireland before the Irish Revolution. Thady is an unreliable narrator who, it appears, cannot - or does not - tell the whole story. Which leaves a question. Is Thady a naive and loyal servant or is he a clever and self-serving man who knows how to get his point across and his plans accomplished without seeming to know what he is saying or doing? Adding to the underlying irony of the narrative is the contrast between Thady and the anonymous, condescending British voice of the mock glossary of terms. Humorous and biting, **Castle Rackrent** is a largely unrecognized jewel of social satire. -- *For great reviews of books for girls, check out Let's Hear It for the Girls: 375 Great Books for Readers 2-14.* -- *From 500 Great Books by Women; review by Erica Bauermeister*

From the Back Cover

Set in Ireland prior to its achieving legislative independence from Britain in 1782, *Castle Rackrent* tells the story of three generations of an estate-owning family as seen through the eyes -- and as told in the voice -- of their longtime servant, Thady Quirk, recorded and commented on by an anonymous Editor. This edition of Maria Edgeworth's first novel is based on the 1832 edition, the last revised by her, and includes Susan Kubica Howard's foot-of-the-page notes on the text of the memoir as well as on the notes and glosses the Editor offers "for the information of the ignorant English reader." Howard's Introduction situates the novel in its political and historical context and suggests a reading of the novel as Edgeworth's contribution to the discussion of the controversial Act of Union between Ireland and Britain that went into effect immediately after the novel's publication in London in 1800.

About the Author

Kathryn Kirkpatrick is Assistant Professor at the Department of English, Appalachian State University.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Corinna Edwards:

Spent a free the perfect time to be fun activity to accomplish! A lot of people spent their sparetime with their family, or their particular friends. Usually they performing activity like watching television, going to beach, or picnic from the park. They actually doing ditto every week. Do you feel it? Do you wish to something different to fill your current free time/ holiday? Might be reading a book could be option to fill your cost-free time/ holiday. The first thing that you'll ask may be what kinds of book that you should read. If you want to try out look for book, may be the book untitled Castle Rackrent (Oxford World's Classics) can be fine book to read. May be it can be best activity to you.

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