



Everyman and Medieval Miracle Plays (Everyman's Library)

Anonymous , A.C. Cawley (Editor)

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Miracle plays were a popular form of entertainment throughout the Middle Ages, and part of the poetic and dramatic tradition on which Shakespeare drew. *Everyman* discovers what you can't take with you when you go. He beseeches in turn friends, family (one pleads 'cramp in my toe'), possessions ('I follow no man in such voyages'), and finally falls back on moral and religious values.

Everyman and Medieval Miracle Plays (Everyman's Library) Details

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From Reader Review Everyman and Medieval Miracle Plays (Everyman's Library) for online ebook

Bill Homan says

Gives an idea of what life was like during the Middle Ages through miracle plays which were very popular at the time.

Sarah says

I don't normally read anything from this time period which may be why I didn't really enjoy this play

T says

Once you get accustomed to the language it's an entertaining but thought provoking read about the inevitability of death for ...every man/woman/child. Death is depicted as a journey that one embarks on suddenly and will never return from - that much we all know. The play also makes an effort to describe what happens after we die, and that is we give an account to God of all the things we did with the life He lent us.

In the same vein the play emphasizes that not only is our very life lent to us from God, but all our possessions, knowledge, wits and senses are also gifts to us from God. Therefore when we die they are returned to the true owner. The only thing that really belongs to us while we are alive are our actions and the charity/good deeds we do for others. It illustrates that the true "self/identity" of 'Everyman' is the relationship that he/she has with all others. Possession is a false notion because the things that we claim ownership of usually end up possessing and controlling us and/or defining us in some artificial way. Pride of life does not lie in what we own, or gather around ourselves - to paraphrase the play, rather this is what robs us of life. Ultimately, pride of life lies in what we give away to others.

Jade says

The Second Shepard's Play, Herod the Great and Everyman.
Everyman being the simplest of the three and also my favourite. A very unique concept.

Rick Davis says

This was a real treat to read. I'm most definitely going to read it again at some point.

Lizzytish says

This review is only about the Everyman play. I would prefer to see it than read it. It's a good universal message about how short life is and you can't take anything with you. Our lives should be led in a way that serves others (good deeds)and not self.

Mohammed Hamida says

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Kelli says

I love this play! I love the symbolism, the word usage fascinated me when I first read it for a literature class. My favorite part from it is when God speaks concerning materialism: 'How that all creatures be to me unkind, living without dread in worldly prosperity...In worldly riches is all their mind, they fear not my righteousness the sharp rod.' It is very poignant for this time in our world. How materialistic we have come. It fascinates me that this play was written many many hundreds of years ago, and yet it still rings true. You know when something is greatly written, when it is still applicable years and years and centuries later. People and their habits don't change.

Holly says

Charming and delightful required reading (I love it when that happens). This edition focuses on miracle plays as they were written for performance from the English cycle(from about early 14th to late 16th century). Miracle plays were not only used for entertainment but also as a form of Christian education for laity before literacy, printing and/or state law contributed to decreasing performance although Everyman was still being performed by the end of Elizabeth I reign. This edition is highly readable with catchy rhythm. It is also rather useful as a daily devotional!

Nancy says

backdrop to the backdrop: i am going to salzburg in a few months, so i've been learning about it, so I watched a video about the Salzburg music festival, and saw footage of modern-day performances of the the German version of this medieval play "everyman"--Jedermann. It fascinated me, so i've read the English version of the play, as well as the other mystery plays in the book.

It comes as a shock to remember that one of the values of christianity USED to be that a good Christian was supposed to not be money-grubbing. My, my. What a commentary on modern life.

Jeremy says

Not that good. I only read a couple of the plays, and they were not enjoyable. They are plays about different bible stories, like Noah's flood and the crucifixion. The play Everyman was decent. It's about Everyman trying to take his strength, goods, beauty, etc. with him at death, but all that he could take was his good deeds. Overall two stars.

Cheryl says

We read two of the plays for our Middle Ages class - The Second Shepherd's Pageant (certainly not the typical view of the shepherds during the birth of Christ) and Everyman. The second one is a morality play telling how our deeds are tallied during life and when we face death we will be alone and face what we have done in life.

Anna Sorensen says

Read for my drama class. This play was just about how to be a good person and get into heaven. Held my attention a bit more than the 2nd Shepherd's Play did but it is very much a 'renounce material objects and other physical possessions and just be a good person or else' kind of message. Quick read and fairly well written, just preachy. But I guess that is expected for the time frame.

Jules says

Many of the medieval plays performed at York pageants are included in this collection.

Hannah says

I didn't read all of the plays in this, but I very much liked the Biblical narratives. They were funny and to the point. Everyman was also very enjoyable and had a very universal message. The personification of ideas

were applicable to every man. :)
