



The Horse Dealer's Daughter

D.H. Lawrence

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D.H. Lawrence's 'The Horse Dealer's Daughter' could be described as a story in which boy meets girl. Its plot, on the surface, resembles that of any number of traditionally romantic pastorals: a country boy saves a country girl from drowning, sees something in her that he never saw before, and, at the end of the story, proposes marriage. But, as we soon see, there is nothing typical about Lawrence's story, because the psychological workings of its characters, particularly that of the rescuer, defy all our expectations of how such a story should work. Lawrence cuts through the romanticism inherent in such a plot line to reflect the dark and conflicting feelings of the so-called lovers.

The Horse Dealer's Daughter Details

Date : Published (first published August 24th 1922)

ISBN :

Author : D.H. Lawrence

Format : Paperback

Genre : Short Stories, Classics, Fiction, Romance, Literature, 20th Century

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From Reader Review The Horse Dealer's Daughter for online ebook

Hannah_Ela says

Ummm...that was interesting. Can't really tell if the ending was supposed to be happy or tragic. Either way it was strange

Georgia Burn says

Structurally confusing and altogether cliché. Liked elements of it but besides that, it wasn't anything spectacular.

Joselito Honestly and Brilliantly says

This is how easy it is for a man to fall in love. He is alone with a woman. Not ugly, or too old, or very young, but he had never checked her out before, had never thought of even flirting with her. But they are alone. And the woman cries and tells him she loves him. Or that likes him, and she doesn't cry but smiles. And he smells her, and feels her, and absorbs her body heat, her hair tickling his facial skin. So he says he loves her too.

The horse dealer's daughter lifted her face to the young doctor--

"and he bent forward and kissed her on the mouth, gently, with the one kiss that is an eternal pledge. And as he kissed her his heart strained again in his breast. He never intended to love her. But now it was over. He had crossed over the gulf to her, and all that he had left behind had shrivelled and become void."

That is how easy it is for a man to fall in love.

Rural Soul says

Read it again after quite time but still it feels the same. Something strange, sad or unusual.

Lily Cooper says

Liked it more than I thought I would! It was entertaining.

Courage says

D. H. Lawrence has got to be an author with one of the most unique writing styles I've ever read. The other

day I'd been reading up on Freud, who is hands-down the horniest psychologist in the history of psychology. But to have sensuality in the way that Lawrence portrays it, with the main female protagonist pressing her chest against "his thighs.. his knees, his legs..." is quite something. Interesting.. will be checking up on Lawrence another day.

Carolyn says

A beautiful story that reads as an allegory for Christ's love for his followers. I read this for Apocrypha and Christian Scriptures: Biblical Backgrounds to English Literature. Mabel and Doctor Ferguson both embody Christ, one being the unexpected and somewhat hesitant martyr, the other the conventional healer.

Ahmed says

Same review as the white stocking. I like Lawrence so far.

Jennifer M. Hartsock says

When Mabel is on the porch with her brothers, she continuously ignores their questions: "The girl did not answer." "The girl did not move a muscle." "There was no answer." "This was received by silence." Her silence continues as the brothers discuss their crucial situation and their future living arrangements. "But she made no answer. There was silence of futility and irritation in the room." "The face of the young woman darkened, but she sat immutable." "There was silence, Mabel sat on like one condemned at the head of the table."

There is the recurring line "He never intended to love her," and the pain in Ferguson's heart once Mabel accuses him of loving her. "His heart, which seemed to have broken, was burning with a kind of agony in his breast." "He wanted to remain like that for ever, with his heart hurting him in a pain that was also life to him." "The saying seemed to tear open again his newly-torn heart." It continues in almost every paragraph until Mabel asks if he must leave her, and he silently says, "And she looked at him... And again, from the pain in his breast, he knew how he loved her."

The use of repetition strengthens the story by convincing the reader what the narrator wants him or her to believe. We have to understand that Mabel is void of happiness and truly ignores those around her. We also have to believe that Ferguson truly did not save her life because he has feelings for her.

However, the use of repetition can sometimes be interpreted as redundancy. This story is right on the fence with having too many repeated lines, but not so many to become irritating and distracting.

Chelsea says

I enjoyed this story! I love modern fiction.

Cosimo says

Historia de una soltera que busca hacer su vida y un joven doctor. La baja autoestima de ella y los prejuicios sociales de él atentan contra la promesa de boda. Buen estilo pero un poco culebrón. Pendiente más de este autor.

Alan says

Mabel might have become, in about 25 pages of literature, one of the most annoying characters I have **EVER** read about...an impressive achievement.

A posh rich girl who cannot swallow her own pride and do a job that will support her family decides it will be "better to die than to do any peasant jobs." She then proceeds to attempt suicide, admittedly something I wasn't devastated about, to only be saved by the courageous doctor risking his own life for this impudent, cynical, spoiled brat of a girl to only be forced into marrying her due to saving her life. Yes you read that correctly. What?!?!?!?

A man, with too much honor, has unwittingly consigned himself to a tragic fate, more tragic than that of Romeo and Juliet, as he is forced to endure this girl for the rest of his life...

Christopher James says

Not entirely too much happens, but I must admit that I sincerely appreciate Lawrence's writing. It may not be his finest text, but it's probably the first time I was able to take notice of what talent he has. There is, after all, a reason his writing has been canonized.

Ashley says

Lawrence and romance...

Jessica Summers says

That's one way to nab a husband
