



The Beast in the Jungle (Xist Classics)

By Henry James

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The Beast in the Jungle (Xist Classics) By Henry James

Henry James' Greatest Short Fiction Achievement

"What had the man had, to make him by the loss of it so bleed and yet live? Something—and this reached him with a pang—that he, John Marcher, hadn't; the proof of which was precisely John Marcher's arid end. No passion had ever touched him, for this was what passion meant; he had survived and maundered and pined, but where had been his deep ravage?... The escape would have been to love her; then, then he would have lived. " - Henry James, The Beast in the Jungle and Other Stories

Like a beast in the jungle, protagonist John Marcher waits for some catastrophic event to happen letting life and love pass by. Eventually, he discovers that tragedy has already occurred: nobody can give his wasted time back. The other two stories, 'The Jolly Corner' and 'The Altar of the Dead' are another great examples of Henry James' wonderful craft and knowledge of the human soul.

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Editorial Review

Review

Short story by Henry James that first appeared in *The Better Sort* (1903). Despite its sluggish pace, implausible dialogue, and excessively ornate style, it is a suspenseful story of despair, with powerful images of fire, ice, and hunting. *The Beast in the Jungle* concerns John Marcher, a neurotic egoist obsessed with the lurking feeling that something incredible is to happen to him. This impending fate has a predatory quality, like "a crouching beast in the jungle." Consumed with anticipation and dread, Marcher is unable to reciprocate the love of his long-suffering companion, May Bartram. She comes to see his fate but is unable to make him understand it before she dies. While visiting her grave one year later, Marcher suddenly realizes that his terrible fate was precisely his inability to comprehend her love for him. -- *The Merriam-Webster Encyclopedia of Literature*

From the Back Cover

Here are three superb stories by one of America's finest writers of fiction. Henry James is best known for his many brilliant novels, among them *The Bostonians*, *The Ambassadors*, *The Wings of the Dove*, *The Golden Bowl*, and his masterpiece, *Portrait of a Lady*. But he is deeply admired for his stories as well, which perhaps even more pointedly reveal the extraordinary subtleties of his art.

That art is nowhere more evident than in "The Beast in the Jungle," regarded by many as James's greatest achievement in short fiction. It is a gripping portrait of a man alienated from life and love, haunted and obsessed by his fears. James's uncanny ability to communicate the inner lives of his characters is also richly evident in "The Jolly Corner" and "The Altar of the Dead," two superbly crafted tales that explore the complex interlacings of loss, love, and the ever-present past in the lives of their protagonists.

About the Author

American author Henry James (1843–1916) spent most of his career in Europe and ultimately adopted British citizenship. A prolific writer of criticism, biography, and travel-related books and articles, James is known above all for his highly influential novels, which frequently explore the clash of Old and New World cultures.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Linda Carroll:

The actual book *The Beast in the Jungle* (Xist Classics) has a lot of information on it. So when you read this book you can get a lot of profit. The book was authored by the very famous author. The writer makes some research previous to write this book. This book very easy to read you may get the point easily after scanning this book.

Gerald Rountree:

Your reading sixth sense will not betray a person, why because this The Beast in the Jungle (Xist Classics) e-book written by well-known writer we are excited for well how to make book that may be understand by anyone who else read the book. Written within good manner for you, dripping every ideas and publishing skill only for eliminate your own hunger then you still doubt The Beast in the Jungle (Xist Classics) as good book not simply by the cover but also from the content. This is one e-book that can break don't ascertain book by its deal with, so do you still needing an additional sixth sense to pick that!? Oh come on your looking at sixth sense already told you so why you have to listening to yet another sixth sense.

Gary Copeland:

The book untitled The Beast in the Jungle (Xist Classics) contain a lot of information on this. The writer explains your ex idea with easy method. The language is very clear and understandable all the people, so do not really worry, you can easy to read this. The book was compiled by famous author. The author provides you in the new era of literary works. It is easy to read this book because you can please read on your smart phone, or device, so you can read the book throughout anywhere and anytime. In a situation you wish to purchase the e-book, you can open up their official web-site in addition to order it. Have a nice examine.

Nathan Strong:

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