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Short Stories In Italian: New Penguin Parallel Texts



Synopsis

This is an all new version of the popular PARALLEL TEXT series, containing eight pieces of contemporary fiction in the original Italian and in English translation. Including stories by Calvino, Benni, Sciascia and Levi, this volume gives a fascinating insight into Italian culture and literature as well as providing an invaluable educational tool.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I feel most buyers of this book will do so with their primary reason to be to improve their Italian reading comprehension. As such, caveat emptor, this is not a book for beginners or early intermediate students. Let us say that it a book for those who wish to enhance their knowledge of dialects, slang, and regional influences. It is also a marvelous cross section of twentieth century Italian short stories, and as such, you may not appreciate all the stories, but certainly you will find some that are captivating and endearing. However if you purchase this book purely to read a collection of Italian short stories in English, you will find it a handsome addition as a primer for those with little or no former familiarity with modern Italian literature. It will not disappoint you.

I've just finished my third course in Italian. I had bought this one last summer to help me review my Italian, after a semester of down-time. It was hard, so I put it back on my shelf. Now I'm all refreshed and I still cannot read a good portion of many of the stories. I would not recommend to anyone except advanced Italian readers or readers who can understand a lot of Italian because they speak a similar language. The parallel text is ok, but some of the translations aren't quite right (translating it as future tense when it's passato prossimo, etc.) It lost a star for that.

This book makes reading so much easier with the parallel text. Anyone starting to read Italian would do well to try this. I am happy with it.

I would never recommend this book to anyone who has below an upper-intermediate level of Italian. Sure the stories are short (anywhere between 5-15 pages give or take) and each page comes with a mirror translation in English and this is convenient- however as these stories are not translated literally word for word you will still have to use your dictionary all the time unless you already have a good grasp of the language.- That is if your goal in getting this book is to improve your Italian vocabulary. The main complaint I have with this book is that the stories are sooo boring. One story goes on for 10 pages about a group of middle-aged women who stare at a toad by the pool. Another story is about two men in a Nazi concentration camp, but there's nothing told about the camp really- the entire story is one man telling another about legends of Lilith (a biblical character)... I had trouble getting through these stories in ENGLISH because they were so boring my mind kept drifting. When I would switch to the Italian it would take so long mostly because I had to force myself through these boring stories. I always read non-fiction in my spare-time so I'm definitely not the type to need explosions or car chases- to the contrary; but I do need more excitement than staring at a toad and complaining about not looking 20 anymore. Maybe there are some interesting stories here- but after reading three of them I gave the book away. In order to learn more Italian I need material that I can at least stay awake with.

Translation is not accurate in some passages

Good quality stories

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