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The Adventures of Peregrine Pickle is a picaresque novel by the Scottish author Tobias Smollett. It is the story of the fortunes and misfortunes of the egotistical dandy Peregrine Pickle, and it provides a comic and caustic portrayal of 18th century European society.

The Adventures of Peregrine Pickle Details

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Author : Tobias Smollett

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From Reader Review The Adventures of Peregrine Pickle for online ebook

Wanda says

4 MAR 2016 - because I cannot resist the title!

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K.D. Absolutely says

My first time to read a novel by Scottish poet and author Tobias Smollett (1721-1771) and I found it just okay.

This picaresque novel tells the story of a young man called **Peregrine Pickle** who is a free spirit. He loves adventure, hates his mother (who hates him in return), talks a lot and challenges the convention and authorities. Because of these things he is an easy magnet to all sorts of funny but sometimes trite situations that compromise himself. I think the novel was written by Smollett as a satire of the high class Parisian society of the 18th century. Pickle belongs to that class and Smollett makes him like a loose canon exposing the hypocrisy and duplicity of those people who are supposedly the vanguard of morals and propriety.

The narrative is episodic that I think was the preferred style for storytelling during that time in Europe. A couple of weeks back, I read *The Lusiads* (3 stars) and it had the same episodic format. **Pickle** is despised by his own cruel mother, ignored by his indifferent father and hated by his degenerate brother and so he is adopted by his eccentric uncle, **Commodore Hawser Trunnion**. Trunnion is the most unforgettable character here as he provides most entertainment in the first half of the book. This uncle pampers Pickle and so the boy thought that he belongs to the privilege class and he can do whatever he wants: he joins the Grand Tour and travels though Europe where there things are in excess like sex, intrigues and rakish behavior. Upon return to London, he wants to be part of the high society so he marries a heiress. However, Pickle's ambition is thwarted by his own destructive behavior. He gets imprisoned and reforms in the end.

The plot is not really an original by today's standard. However, it was a hit when it was first published in 1751 and said to have influenced the writings of Charles Dickens (1812-1870).

So, even if the writing is verbose and repetitive, this book is a classic and I just cannot hate it. We all should respect the fact that classic works have withstood the test of time and they are still being read after so many years and that's proof enough that they have some universal truths in them.

Michael says

Finally finished this: all 781 pages of it (plus notes). It's a funny, picaresque 18th century novel, grittier and cruder than Henry Fielding, but also a novel that could be a couple hundred pages shorter without any serious loss. By mid-novel the misadventures become almost random, as if Smollett is making the plot up as he goes along, and at one point Peregrine disappears for over 100 pages while we hear the (very topical)

memoirs of a lady of quality. In the end, though, after getting out of debtor's prison, Peregrine gets his Emilia and an 80,000 pound inheritance.

I am probably a better person for having read this.

Buck says

Well, that's it. I just can't stomach any more of this red-cheeked, ale-breathed, snaggle-toothed, har-dee-har-har brand of British humour. I made it through 200 pages before getting fed up with the endless succession of pratfalls and pee jokes. I'm talking Farrelly Brothers territory here - minus the subtlety and wit. And while the typical Farrelly offering at least retains, for all the errant semen flying around, a bumbling romanticism, a moronic sweetness, *Peregrine Pickle* is just plain nasty. An all-too characteristic 'bit': young Peregrine and his cronies steal some fruit from a peasant, then beat him half to death when he demands payment, thus putting his family 'on the parish'. Great fun, that.

None of this would bother me if it were actually funny - as Rabelais, writing in the same coarse vein, can still be funny today. But Smollett is one of the most elaborately and methodically unfunny writers in the language, outside of Dave Barry.

What a bore. Now I need to go cleanse my palate. Ugh.

Arukiyomi says

Context: Listened to Vol I of this on a boat from Masarau to Kokopo, East New Britain, PNG with the volcanoes of Rabaul in the distance.

Review: I started off listening to this. It took hours to get to the end. But what, in fact, the end turned out to be was simply the end of Volume 1, I had another book to go. I managed to find an ebook version of Volume 2 after a bit of a search. Although I'm glad I read it, boy does Smollet go on... and on... and on.

Peregrine is a young lad who's virtually abandoned by his birth family and thrust upon the duties of Hawser Trunnion. Thankfully, Pickle is more than wealthy. In fact, he's so wealthy, he doesn't realise how wealthy he really is and, after a louche life at Oxford, sets off on a tour of France and Belgium with which most of Vol 1 is concerned. His "adventures" are just mostly him sowing wild oats. Vol 2 charts the inevitable slide into penury and the predictable restoration of his fortunes on more than one front.

So, the strength of this book does not, in any way, lie in the story. For me, the book was a good read because of it's wonderful satire of 18th century upper class gentry and Smollet's ability to turn a phrase. He has a very wry style of writing that is subtle humour at its best. On top of that, there are one or two great characters. Pipes and Trunnion, for me, made the book. The way that Smollet crafts their dialogue, almost

entirely consisting of nautical references, is fantastic.

But, as with the *Musketeers* recently, it was the legacy of the book that took it from okay to good. Smollet simply doesn't know a) when to shut up and b) when not to include a 200 page side narrative. I kid you not about the latter. I thought I was never going to get to the end of the story a lady tells him. What made it even worse was that this lady, and her interminable story, play absolutely no significant role in the story whatsoever. If the book was half as long, it would be far easier to read.

Smollet's panache for dark humour kept me going although I was glad when it was all over. I'm not sure how much I'm looking forward to seeing how this compares to Smollet's other characters, Roderick Random and Humphry Clinker.

OPENING LINE

In a certain county of England, bounded on one side by the sea, and at the distance of one hundred miles from the metropolis, lived Gamaliel Pickle, esq.; the father of that hero whose fortunes we propose to record.

99TH PAGE QUOTE

The soldier's wrath was inflamed by this ironical repetition, the contempt of which his conscious poverty made him feel; and he called his antagonist presumptuous boy, insolent upstart, and with other epithets, which Perry retorted with great bitterness. A formal challenge having passed between them, they alighted at the first inn, and walked into the next field, in order to decide their quarrel by the sword. Having pitched upon the spot, helped to pull off each other's boots, and laid aside their coats and waistcoats, Mr. Gauntlet told his opponent, that he himself was looked upon in the army as an expert swordsman, and that if Mr. Pickle had not made that science his particular study, they should be upon a more equal footing in using pistols. Peregrine was too much incensed to thank him for his plain dealing, and too confident of his own skill to relish the other's proposal, which he accordingly rejected: then, drawing his sword, he observed, that were he to treat Mr. Gauntlet according to his deserts, he would order his man to punish his audacity with a horsewhip. Exasperated at this expression, which he considered as an indelible affront, he made no reply, but attacked his adversary with equal ferocity and address. The youth parried his first and second thrust, but received the third in the outside of his sword-arm. Though the wound was superficial, he was transported with rage at sight of his own blood, and returned the assault with such fury and precipitation, that Gauntlet, loath to take advantage of his unguarded heat, stood upon the defensive. In the second lounge, Peregrine's weapon entering a kind of network in the shell of Godfrey's sword, the blade snapped in two, and left him at the mercy of the soldier, who, far from making an insolent use of the victory he had gained, put up his Toledo with great deliberation, like a man who had been used to that kind of rencounters, and observed that such a blade as Peregrine's was not to be trusted with a man's life: then advising the owner to treat a gentleman in distress with more respect for the future, he slipped on his boots, and with sullen dignity of demeanour stalked back to the inn

CLOSING LINE

This might give the game away. If you want to see the last line, click (view spoiler)

(hide spoiler)]

RATING

Key: Legacy | Plot / toPic | Characterisation / faCts | Readability | Achievement | Style *Read more about how I come up with my ratings*

Craig says

As much as I found the practical jokes and adventures entertaining, Smollet failed pull me in. His characters seemed two-dimensional and sometimes very flat. The protagonist only finds trouble for himself once and even then he is swept away in moments and in a better state. I understand that it is a picaresque and it may be that this genre of fiction only held for some funny moments and adventurous kicks about the city or country, but I never felt invested in the characters or what happened to them (Tom Jones is a worthy contrast to Peregrine Pickle as I felt like I knew Tom and cared for his welfare--not so much for Mr. Pickle).

Nicole says

Long, drawn-out tale of a young man who likes to play jokes on people (rather mean ones) and who eventually overcomes all kinds of misfortune. I had a really hard time with this one, not really sure why other than I couldn't stand the main character. Another "classic" that reminds me of the value of good editors.

The only part I kind of enjoyed was the Memoirs of a Woman of Quality that's kind of like a novella tucked into the overall plot.

44 of The List

Kate says

[illegible]

[illegible]

۱- ۲۰۰۰ تا ۲۰۰۵ ساله: در این دوره، با توجه به افزایش جمعیت و نیاز به خدمات بهداشتی، تعداد مراکز بهداشتی و درمانی در استان افزایش یافته است. همچنین، با توجه به افزایش آگاهی مردم، استفاده از خدمات بهداشتی و درمانی افزایش یافته است.

Did not like this book at all. There was no smooth flow to the story and the main character was so horrid that he made me sick. I think the author tried but totally missed the mark with this book. Perhaps another book by him might be better but not this one. Really don't bother.

Peregrine Pickle, is the kind of man who his own mother hates!That she's a nut, doesn't help.Pickle is a notorious practical joker ,to his friends and relatives who speak to him.Commodore Hawser Trunnion, later his uncle ,takes him in after Pickle is unwelcomed back home.Trunnion ,has two friends staying in the mansion also,Lieutenant Hatchway and boatswain Tom Pipes.Both former shipmates. Trunnion has a little problem ,he treats his house like a warship.Even shooting off a cannon from it. That's normal right? The neighbors you can guess aren't thrilled but since the old sailor is rich and powerful, look the other way.Peregrine becomes a con man and gets involved with a phony magician, aren't they all!Bilking the wealthy and gullible.Later he travels to the famous resort of Bath and pretends to be a doctor.(The author himself was a physician and is having a little fun at his own profession)Eventually the con man gets conned and loses all his money.Luckly an unexpected inheritance rights Pickle sinking ship.

This book is described as "picaresque" which I now know to approach warily because I've learned what the word really translates to: From the Latin "Picar" which means "sucks," and from the Greek "esque" which

means "big time."

How ironic that the protagonist's name also implies the quality of the book: From the Somali "Peregrine" which means, "Philandering world-wanderer," and from the Esperanto "Pickle," which means "Giant-ass practical joker with asshole friends."

I've been told I need to appreciate such books in context. Okay, fine, here's the context: the book is analogous to today in what would be its modern day form: several seasons of "Jackass" between two covers.

I find no entertainment in cruelty and violence. Only Cormac McCarthy is allowed to write about that, because his prose is transcendent.

You must understand that my favorite forms of fictional entertainment, be it literature or cinema, is where everyone in the work is smart, and thinking.

Everyone here is the opposite. The book is a waste of valuable human time. My last nose-picking session was time better spent.

Neale says

‘Peregrine Pickle’ was Smollett’s follow-up to ‘Roderick Random’, and it is, if anything, even more packed to the rafters with roguery and rumbustuousness. To tell the truth, there is so much that it all becomes a bit tiring after a while, particularly since Peregrine is a less engaging hero than Roderick Random was. His rogueries are presented as youthful high-spirits, but they start to grate pretty soon, as do the double-standards of class and sex.

The best thing about ‘Peregrine Pickle’, which may explain why it appealed to Dickens for all its wild improprieties, is its gallery of secondary characters (often of a naval nature): these characters are portrayed with much greater complexity than was usual at the time, and are the book’s great gift to the development of the English novel.

vi macdonald says

I think my problem with *picturesque* novels is always going to be that I've read *Don Quixote* and I've seen Terry Gilliam's *Baron Munchausen* and between those two great's there's pretty much no hope for anybody else to ever impress me in that style.

Sorry, Smollett, it's me - not you.

Laura says

Free download available at Project Gutenberg.

Leslie says

3.5 *

I found the second half of this novel dragged a bit (due to the inclusion of some fairly lengthy side stories not involving our hero) but overall this satire was a fun look at society & life in the later part of the eighteenth century. Peregrine at times was cruel in some of the jokes he played (especially on the Commodore) and arrogant in his dealings but underneath he has a good heart & he does eventually learn his lesson.
