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Thérèse Raquin



Synopsis

Once upon a time, a teenaged Kate Winslet (*The Reader*, *Titanic*, *Revolutionary Road*) received a gift that would leave a lasting impression: a copy of Emile Zola's classic *Thérèse Raquin*. Six Academy Award nominations and one Best Actress award later, she steps behind the microphone to perform this haunting classic of passion and disaster. *Thérèse Raquin* is the story of a young woman forced into an unhappy marriage to her dull, sickly cousin and smothered by her overbearing aunt. When her husband's childhood friend enters her life, it leads to a torrid affair that sets her spirit free for the first time, but with shattering consequences. Steeped in the atmosphere of 19th-century France and with a darkly rich foreboding, it is a story that brings out the best of its narrator's incomparable talents. "It is challenging, and it's a heck of a lot of fun as well," said Ms. Winslet of the recording experience. "As a listener, being able to tune out and be taken into another world, an atmosphere, an environment that is being created entirely for you by somebody else's voice is really a wonderful, magical thing."

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

It is a classic. I have read *Thérèse Raquin* at a young age and again recently. A deep thought provoking story indeed. Read it and judge for yourself. Zola and his stories for my money are great.

You'd better have a strong stomach for this one. In many parts gruesome, it's a page turner. Don't expect a happy ending from Zola. He's famous for his realism. There's a lesson in this tale, if you can stand tragedy.

Thrilling read in its original French.

Kate Winslet is a wonderful narrator, with her clear, soothing, and well-paced delivery, and her skilled character acting giving life and personalities to the pathetic characters of Zola's dark realist novel. The twisted plot revolves around human despair, lamentable desire, the rawness of passion, and the darkest strains of human psyche. While the theme and plot is simple and close, it is nonetheless compelling: Zola's language flows beautifully in Winslet's narration, and the dark psychology is not without its pessimistic depth. I wish Ms. Winslet could read all my books to me!

This is a new rendition from the Emile Zola Society edition of the novel. The reviewer below thinks this is Balzac. It's Zola of course and the Pastore edition is faithfully updated without it being absurdly modernist. Why audible.com says its "public domain" is anyone's guess. It is not. If you like your books read to you--and most readers do especially if they're in a car, this is terrific.

Kate Winslet reads Zola's proto-noir tale of adultery and murder in the tone that I would have imagined Zola using: detached and disgusted. She brought the characters, male and female, to life in their short bursts of dialogue: angry, unhinged Therese; loud, brutish Laurent; the fools whose great goal in life is playing dominoes with what they imagine is a perfect family.

Very well written, and extremely dark. In my quest to read classics this was on my list. I thought it was a great story told so well. However, it's a bit dark for my taste and not something I would have chosen. The author wove an incredible tale and so many times I wanted to cry or slap someone. I may not ever read it again, but I am glad I read it. I recommend you read it at least once.

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