

Orlando Furioso: A Literary Masterpiece by Ludovico Ariosto

Orlando Furioso is a sprawling epic poem by the Italian Renaissance writer Ludovico Ariosto, first published in 1516. It is considered one of the greatest works of Italian literature and is widely regarded as the definitive chivalric romance of the Renaissance.



Orlando Furioso: Part One by Juan Elmartinez

★★★★☆ 4.5 out of 5

Language	: English
Paperback	: 177 pages
Item Weight	: 9.6 ounces
Dimensions	: 6 x 0.4 x 9 inches
File size	: 21858 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Print length	: 836 pages



A Complex and Intricate Plot

The poem is set in the late Middle Ages and centers on the adventures of the knight Orlando (known as Roland in French epics). Orlando is one of Charlemagne's paladins, and the poem follows his quest to avenge the death of his beloved Angelica.

The plot of **Orlando Furioso** is famously complex and intricate, with numerous subplots and characters. It is a sprawling tapestry of knights,

ladies, battles, monsters, magic, and love stories.

The poem is divided into 46 cantos, each containing about 50 stanzas of eight lines. The stanzas are written in ottava rima, a rhyming scheme that gives the poem a distinctive musicality.

Unforgettable Characters

Orlando Furioso features a large cast of characters, each with their own unique personalities and motivations. The most memorable characters include:

- **Orlando:** A brave and noble knight, but also prone to fits of rage and jealousy.
- **Angelica:** A beautiful princess who is the object of desire for many knights.
- **Astolfo:** Orlando's cousin, a lighthearted and adventurous knight.
- **Ruggiero:** A Saracen knight who is eventually converted to Christianity.
- **Bradamante:** A female knight who is Ruggiero's love interest.

Themes of Love, War, and Identity

Orlando Furioso explores a wide range of themes, including love, war, and identity. The poem celebrates the power of love, but also shows its destructive potential. The poem also explores the horrors of war and the search for meaning in life.

One of the most important themes in the poem is the search for identity. Many of the characters in the poem are struggling to find their place in the world. This is particularly true of Ruggiero, who is torn between his Saracen heritage and his Christian faith.

The poem also explores the role of magic in the human world. Magic is a powerful force in the poem, and it can be used for both good and evil.

**For love is lord of truth and liberty,
And laughs at chains, and locketh, and close walls;
That where he goes he conquers, and where he
Alters the being of all accidents.**

— *Ludovico Ariosto, Orlando Furioso*

A Lasting Legacy

Orlando Furioso has had a profound influence on literature and culture. The poem has been translated into many languages and has been adapted into operas, plays, and films.

The poem's characters and stories have become part of the collective imagination. Orlando, Angelica, and the other characters are still celebrated today in art, literature, and popular culture.

Orlando Furioso is a literary masterpiece that continues to be enjoyed by readers around the world. The poem's complex plot, unforgettable characters, and timeless themes make it a work of lasting importance.



Further Reading

- *Orlando Furioso* by Ludovico Ariosto (Project Gutenberg)
- *Orlando Furioso* by Ludovico Ariosto (Encyclopædia Britannica)
- *Orlando Furioso* by Ludovico Ariosto (CliffsNotes)

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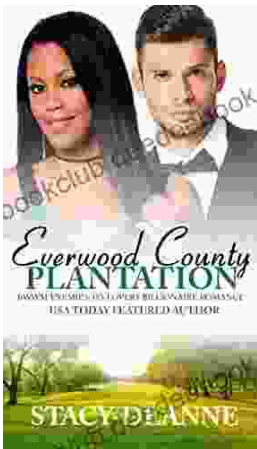
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