



# Euphues the Anatomy of Wit: Euphues & His England

*John Lyly*

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*Euphues. The anatomy of wit Verie pleasant for all gentlemen to read, and most necessarie to remember. By Ihon Lyly Master of Art.*

Lyly, John, 1554?-1606.

[Edition statement:] Corrected and augmented.

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# From Reader Review Euphues the Anatomy of Wit: Euphues & His England for online ebook

**Ahmad Sharabiani says**

994. Euphues: The Anatomy of Wit, John Lyly

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**Danielle Wilson says**

Have you ever read something that made you feel dumb? Really? Me either until now.

This is not to say that I understood none of this particular book. There were random parts that made a bunch of sense and the rest... well... It went way over my head. Maybe it was the style of the writing that was the problem. I could understand it if I concentrated really hard and analyzed each sentence. But who really wants to do that? I just wasn't in the concentrating mood today.

The parts that I did understand made sense. Some of it was even funny. Some of it was common sense - just worded differently.

I'd have to read it again to "get" the rest of it, but I don't think I'm willing to do that right now. Maybe in a few months or so, once this has had a chance to marinate in my brain for a bit.

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**L.M.S. Rosa says**

Euphues is a book I detest, treasure and imitate: detest like Marsyas did music after his amercement; treasure like King Croesus did coins and conquest; and imitate like Thomas à Kempis did the teachings of Christ. I shall deign its dreary traducers that it's a thin but tedious tome, with characters who quake as much as corpses in caskets do; preachy and ponderous like a priest in a pulpit, no doubt, but what a debt writers have to its drapery! William H. Gass grew in its garden like a begonia. And wouldn't Nabokov be blind like a bat without its beacon beaming brilliantly at him? Its cadence has cascaded down the centuries and seeped into much superior pupils who have picked its polished prose and put in it the laughs and life it lacked. Enjoyable? Not a jot for most of the journey; trust me, I've tangled with its genius torments. This book is a challenge; finish it and you feel like a champ; fail, like a chump. It's a museum piece to praise, not to put up with. Prose lovers will love its wordplay; the plot-impatient will find mere word ploys to foil their pleasures. Learned allusions and latinate lexicon pounce upon this liber's lector like lava purged Pompey. But scribblers can learn lasting lessons from its sensuous and singular style. And if nothing else you can put it to use for pretentious pastiches like my paltry paragraph.

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**Steven says**

The rating on this book is more for Euphues: the anatomy of wit and not the second part of the book. I really

enjoyed the word play in the Euphuës: the anatomy of wit. After reading this work the definition of euphuism is very clear. Euphuism: an affected style in imitation of that of Lyly, fashionable in England about the end of the 16th century, characterized chiefly by long series of antitheses and frequent similes relating to mythological natural history, and alliteration.

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### **Monty Milne says**

Wading through treacle would be more fun. No, Mr Lyly, you are not a Fountain of Wit, just a repetitious, sententious, boring old windbag. And you often get your sources jumbled and your facts wrong, so you are not as bright as you think you are.

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### **Benjy says**

Just awful. Unreadable. Not an enjoyable experience in any sense of the word and glad that I have judged ratings thus far such that I have left room to put this one out there on its own. Unwitty, nonsensical, and utter rubbish almost from beginning to end. Would rather stick pins in my eyes. Repeatedly. Well at least I'm 12 down in the 1001 books you must read before you die. Only 989 to go. Let's be honest they can't get any worse.

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### **Kaitlyn Utkewicz says**

Another one that is basically unreadable! I wish I wasn't abandoning books so often, but I couldn't make heads or tails of this one. 1001 list, shape up!

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### **Renee says**

The plot serves as an excuse for Lyly to show off his own wit to point of arrogance. Any other story about wanting another man's woman and stealing her for yourself would serve you better than slogging your way through this heavy prose full of redundancy.

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### **Lisa says**

Abandoned, guilt-free.

A truly dreadful book, of interest perhaps to scholars, but not worthy of its place in 1001 Books You Must Read...

See <https://anzlitlovers.com/2018/04/09/e...>

50 pages was more than enough for me...

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**lawyerbookworm says**

Another one that is basically unreadable! I wish I wasn't abandoning books so often, but I couldn't make heads or tails of this one. 1001 list, shape up!

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**Hannah says**

The worst trash that I read just because it was written by a contemporary of Shakespeare. Why, oh why didn't I read something good?

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**Martin says**

This book was neither witty, nor euphuistic (allegedly, it is from here that the word "euphemism" is derived), nor an anatomy of anything, save for extreme unreadability in the first part, a rehashed attempt to expound on Ecclesiastes in the second part, and boring missives in the third. It has renown for being the first English novel, but it is not a novel at all. It's a hodgepodge of excruciating words, it's inconsistent in its narrative, and way too long even at 152 pages. It does not belong on the list of 1,001 Books to Read Before You Die. The honor should be given to whatever English novel is next that was better than this one; an easy bar to clear.

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**librarian4Him02 says**

Loved the use of language, etc. It was a challenge to read and I enjoyed taking on the challenge.

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