



Two Gallants

James Joyce

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Little JETS of been exercising laughter FOLLOWED one ANOTHER out of his convulsed BODY. His eyes. Twinkling with cunning ENJOYMENT. Have glanced the at every Moment towards HIS companion's face vs' ' When he was quite sure that the narrative had ended he laughed noiselessly for fully half a minute. Then he said: Well ...! That takes the biscuit! 'James Joyce's naturalistic, unflinching portrayal of ordinary working people in his Dubliners stories was a literary landmark. These four stories from that collection offer glimpses of defeated lives - an unremarkable death, a theft, a desperate plan, a failed writer's dream - yet each creates a compelling and ultimately redemptive vision of a city and of human experience. This book includes: Two Gallants. The Sisters. The Boarding House. and A Little Cloud.

Two Gallants Details

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From Reader Review Two Gallants for online ebook

Laura says

You may read online here.

Opening lines:

The grey warm evening of August had descended upon the city and a mild warm air, a memory of summer, circulated in the streets. The streets, shuttered for the repose of Sunday, swarmed with a gaily coloured crowd. Like illumined pearls the lamps shone from the summits of their tall poles upon the living texture below which, changing shape and hue unceasingly, sent up into the warm grey evening air an unchanging unceasing murmur.

Soplada says

looks like nobody nowadays knows how to write like James Joyce

Lea says

I liked the last story "A Little Cloud" the best. I definitely should get around to reading all the Dubliners stories at one point.

Bettie? says

Read here: <http://www.berfrois.com/2015/08/two-g...>

Realini says

Two Gallants by James Joyce
Emotional Intelligence

Two gallants is a beautiful story, albeit I am not sure if one of them is a “gallant”, which in turn may mean that I did not really get the story.

Since I am not sure if and what I dig, I looked up in the dictionary (online):

Galant= adjective 1. brave, spirited, noble-minded, or chivalrous: a gallant knight; a gallant rescue attempt.
2. exceptionally polite and attentive to women; courtly

Corley? Yes, I can see why he would be called Gallant. If we are to believe what he says. Even if, following the narrative there are, indeed some hints that he really is at least brave with women.

I am not sure about Lonehan though. He seems polite, but gallant would be too much, in my perspective. Lonehan is the shy, timid type seen from here.

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This is the splendid description that opens up the tale. Then there is an awkward detail. We learn about two young men who come down the hill, one of them being “obliged to step on to the road, owing to his companion's rudeness, wore an amused listening face.”

Writing is about understanding the world better- sometimes.

As I write trying to figure out why two gallants and not one, it dawns upon me that Corley is gallant with women and Lonehan is a gallant individual in another sense. True, the definition given in dictionaries applies only to the men who are polite towards women, but Lonehan adopts a gallantry, from the very start, towards his companion.

By referring only to women, the definition makes me think of Alan, or the gay type, in the sense of today. James Joyce speaks of “Gay Lothario”, but he means the joyful Lothario- at that time, gay meant happy, cheerful, which is not “excluded „today- a homosexual person can very well be cheerful, but gay equals a different meaning nowadays.

The plot is not really breathtaking, albeit the way it is developed and transmitted is wonderful and, fortunately for this less resilient reader- accessible, as opposed to Ulysses.

Corley is bragging about how charming he is and how a woman paid for his tickets and gave him cigarettes. We even see him “in action” as a “ladies ‘man”

Which makes me think of the finale. Of course I cannot spoil it for you by getting into that, but there is an element there that I cannot grasp.

Is he like a gigolo?

I wonder.

You could stop here, for the rest is just idle talk, one thought leading to another, with little or nothing to do with the original saga.

Men have always showed off their conquests.

They tell you how they “scored”, even when, or especially since they didn’t.

I took her on the stairs and she was hot and begged me for more and she came, again and again...OMG she kept shouting...

You hear that in the men’s sauna, in the Jacuzzi...whenever they feel they have an audience ready to get enraptured at their tales of Mystery and Imagination, they go for it.

My experience is rather mixed- Mother nature or God has endowed me with green eyes, curly hair, no apparent defects and a good symmetry, average non-prominent nose (that is a close scientific definition of “Beauty”) and most important, a non-stopping collection of stories, jokes, funny or just weird situations, travel experiences- I worked in the business, Olympic sagas- I went to the Atlanta Olympics, revolution horror stories- I am mentioned in the Newsweek of December 1989 over a whole paragraph- so I have had enough material to dizzy the most sober person, including Some Like It Hot strategies.

But I have had depressions, rejections and disappointments for more than a lifetime. My wife is a case in point. She has given loans to all her four brothers and sisters, not to mention her mother and is bringing a kid nephew on my already heavy payroll. She has decided that the kid needs to have an iPhone.

OMG.

Can you still be Gallant, under the circumstances?

You can read the story here:

<http://www.online-literature.com/jame...>

Ryan says

James Joyce is a writer who I feel I'd enjoy better if I was more smart, so I'll try to keep my unfounded criticism to the side for this review. In fact, I have very positive things to say about the title story, which is about two con-artists who have an endearing relationship. Joyce is quite good with the details of demeanor, and in all the short stories very quickly establishes the cast.

While all of these stories are from Dubliners and thus embarrassing to read in pocket form, I found this to be a good selection of Joyce for people who haven't read much Joyce.

K. Anna Hardy says

I've arranged my takeaway thoughts into a haiku:

"Gallantry's essence,
Keeping the pleasant reflex
When the heart's gone out."

Johan Radzi says

Barangkali aku lebih sukakan cerpen-cerpen Franz Kafka ketimbang James Joyce. Tulsian beliau cermat, bersederhana, dan penutupnya adalah sebilah pisau yang tajam. Dia memotong cerita itu dengan pantas sebelum kita sedar apa yang terjadi. Sampai saja diperenggan terakhir, secebis roh kita sudah terambil tanpa izin, membuat kita lemas dan sesak.

Dia mahu kita baca karyanya dan hilang jiwa sebabnya.

Darinda says

Read in Dubliners.

Two men, Lenahan and Corley, haven't made much of their lives. Corley has made a plan with a housekeeper to get some money. Lenahan spends the evening waiting to meet back up with Corley after the plan.

Anirban Nanda says

This is a story from Dubliners. Didn't know there is a separate book.

Jessica Thurlow says

This is a small collection of 4 short stories by James Joyce.

By far my two favourites are The Boarding House and A Little Cloud. Both leave you thinking about how that characters will move on from here.

I adore Joyce's way of jumping in to the middle of a story to start showing the reader what's going on and how he just sort of jumps back out again when he feels the readers seen enough to come to a conclusion. There are no wasted pieces of information.

One also certainly gets an idea of what life in Dublin was like.

I'm looking forward to reading more from Joyce.

Jacob Kuckkahn says

Personal Response: While I found the story of "Two Gallants" to be quite boring, this book doesn't seem to want to be interesting. The book seems to be targeted towards older men who want to relive their lives, walking through the streets of a slow town, chilling out with their friends, and causing mischief.

Plot: Two middle aged men, Lenahan and his best friend Corley, walk down the hills and streets of a slow town conversing about the women they fancy. Lenahan consistently tests Corley's patience, and jests about Corley's ineptitude at dating. As they continue walking Corley tells Lenahan about his date that he's meeting up with. As they arrive upon his date Lenahan leaves the two alone, but decides that he should tail them for awhile. After a few minutes of tracking the two he loses them, and realizes his hunger has been barking at him for the last hour, so he proceeds to go to a restaurant and orders peas... Lenahan also purchases a Ginger Ale to go with his order. Lenahan heads out the doors, and consults his friends about Corley's location. After questioning a few more people, Lenahan and his friends catch up with Corley and touch-base with him about his night. Corley only smiles, and outstretches a golden coin.

Characterization:

Lenahan: Leneahn is a spiritedly, mischievous young man who enjoys testing the temperament of his friends. He walks the walk, and talks the talk so well that even when he's being a bit tiresome his pals can still get a good laugh out of the night. Even so, he possess knowledge beyond anyone he knows.

Corley: Corley is a large man and fits the general role of such perfectly. He has a bit of a gut and a big head, always looking for something to do that he could do better. He's a generally pleasant guy to be around, but usually regards conversation as a time exclusively for reminiscing about himself.

Recommendations: The story of "Two Gallants" is nothing special to be certain, but it is definitely a great story that is open to interpretation. The descriptions gifted are incredibly descriptive, but leave room open for interpretation. I would honestly recommend this book to any male looking to read one of the misadventures of two men, despite the general lack of interest in the plot.

Marthese Formosa says

Good book. James Joyce uses some very nice words and places them in captivating sentences. Because it was glimpses into someone's life and not a narrative, sometimes I was left confused about what was going on. Sometimes extra details were said that were a bit out of the structure but very beautiful read overall.

Mark J Easton says

Selected from Joyce's The Dubliners, this collection's four stories offer modernist tales focused on the day-to-day lives of Dublin's weak-willed, its miscreants, and its underachievers. Drawing on incidences of petty theft, religious obsolesce, and the causes and pitfalls of marriage, each tale is ungarnished, delving into the prosaic and tepid travails of life at the turn of the last century.

Historically revealing, sociologically fertile, and emotionally abrupt, Two Gallants is a stirring read and serves as an excellent way to enjoy Joyce without getting lost in the rigmarole of his heavier works.

Michelle says

Four poignant short stories with seemingly simple tales of ordinary occurrences reveal the multi-faceted and sometimes paradoxical human nature. What stood out for me is the author deep connection with his characters. He gets their pulse and is able to put that on paper in simple words. I think I understand the term "stream of consciousness" a little better now.
