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Egmont



EGMONT

JOHANN WOLFGANG VON GOETHE



Synopsis

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe was a prominent German author, poet, and statesman. Goethe's poetry novels, and plays all are considered some of the finest in literature and his popularity has not waned since his death in 1832. Egmont is a tragic play that tells the story of Count Egmont's fight against the Duke of Alba.

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Customer Reviews

This is a wonderful play with well-developed characters and noble values expressed. The historical backdrop for the play is the Spanish occupation of the Netherlands in the 1500's. The residents of the Low Countries lost a lot of traditional freedoms. Emperor Charles V placed a heavy yoke on the occupied territories. The Inquisition was a burdensome entity that placed confining restrictions on religious freedom. There were resultant reactionary political measures as well. Margaret was the regent of the area appointed by the Spanish throne. The leadership of the empire was not satisfied with her efforts to control the populace. She was ousted from practical power and replaced by the ruthless military man Alva. Count Egmont was one of the stalwarts of the region. He was from the local nobility and was a reasonable ruler. He was a liberal man who won the respect of his peers and subjects through compassion and mercy. Clara was the romantic interest of Egmont. She was completely devoted to him. She could not stand the thought of losing him and indeed committed suicide in order to be waiting for him on the other side. Ferdinand was Alva's son. He was on friendly terms with Egmont and had great respect for him. He was distraught about his father's plans to execute Egmont to make a public example to any subjects who may be inclined to rebel. Egmont comes across as a man who loves liberty and freedom. He was a noble man who was respected by

warriors and the common folk alike. He was a martyr for the cause of the nascent nationalism of the Netherlands. Egmont had no regrets and carried himself like a man. His death inspired his people to fight for the cause of religious conscience, political autonomy, and independence.

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