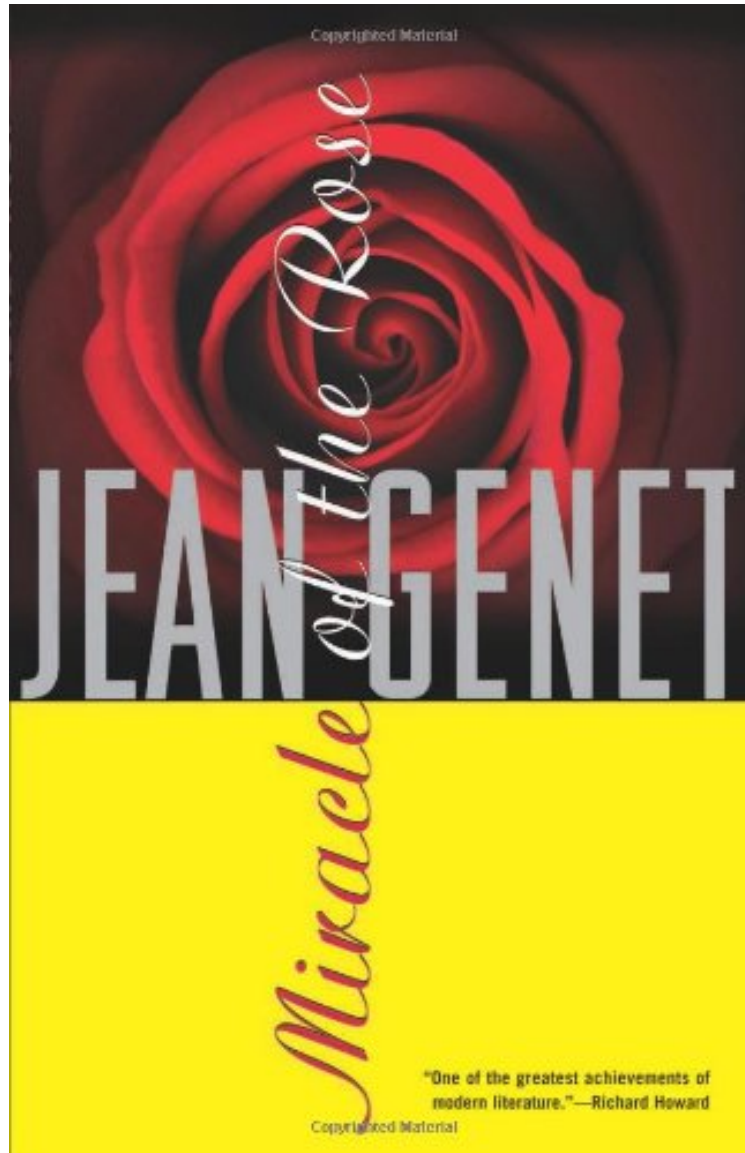


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Miracle of the Rose

Jean Genet

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#704650 in Books Grove Press 1994-01-13 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.16 x .77 x 5.501, .74 #File Name: 0802130887291 pages | File size: 22.Mb

Jean Genet : Miracle of the Rose before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Miracle of the Rose:

4 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Vignettes strung together without a psychological punch line? By Herbert L Calhoun I am sure there must be deeper existential lessons to be learned here that I have missed, as Genet delves into the depths of the degradation of prison life and in particular into a rash of homosexual trysts, spanning several prisons and Reform Schools. However, whatever the larger message is, it seems to me it has been missed or is

overshadowed by a familiar and troubling but very common psychological motif: The desire to make his netherworld, his underworld at the outer border of human degradation, seem normal and pathetically heroic in the same way that any victimized subgroups uses denial and pretense to romanticize, enlarge and otherwise turn their indignities in life into heroic actions via literary device. If this interpretation is correct. It is not an entirely honest way of using language to rise above an embarrassing reality. And really, how heroic is that?The beauty of the language aside -- and it is beautiful indeed -- the first emotion evoked at these dives down into (and below) the subhuman is pity, then sorrow, then shame; never heroism, never dignity, never defiance; only capitulation. Even Harcamone's "suicide by legal death sentence" (by killing a prison guard) seems more like a coward's escape than a hero's gallant exit to me. Certainly there is an artistic backside to all of this that cannot be denied. I have not missed the delicacy of Genet's language: It is like Miles Davis' tone of walking on eggshell raised to a new level. His ability to pack his language with inchoate hatred and anger has no peers: it must have been what Emile Griffith was thinking just before he unleashed the fusillade that killed Benny "Kid" Paret in the ring in 1962. However, beautiful language as a lament is still a lament, unless the whole fabric of the story is pulled together to a higher psychological plane. So far, I have not seen Genet do that in this much-praised book. I have several others of his, and I will be watching like a hawk to see if this psychological circle is closed. Without that, for me at least, this is a three star effort. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Explodes in your face! By Daniel G. Madigan A great book. Genet knew the attraction of the search for Truth would be ruthless. He was right. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good second work from Genet By sandra chopehel Good second work from Genet. I personally prefer the Our Lady of the Flowers but a must read for anyone interested in this man and his writing.

This nightmarish account of prison life during the German occupation of France is dominated by the figure of the condemned murderer Harcamone, who takes root and bears unearthly blooms in the ecstatic and brooding imagination of his fellow prisoner Genet.

About the Author Jean Genet was born in Paris in 1910. An illegitimate child who never knew his parents, he was abandoned to the Public Assistance Authorities. He was ten when he was sent to a reformatory for stealing; thereafter he spent time in the prisons of nearly every country he visited in thirty years of prowling through the European underworld. With ten convictions for theft in France to his credit he was, the eleventh time, condemned to life imprisonment. Eventually he was granted a pardon by President Auriol as a result of appeals from France's leading artists and writers led by Jean Cocteau. \$\$\$ His first novel, *Our Lady of the Flowers*, was written while he was in prison, followed by *Miracle of the Rose*, the autobiographical *The Thief's Journal*, *Querelle of Brest* and *Funeral Rites*. He wrote six plays: *The Balcony*, *The Blacks*, *The Screens*, *The Maids*, *Deathwatch* and *Splendid's* (the manuscript of which was rediscovered only in 1993). Jean Genet died in 1986.