



Three Lives (Dover Thrift Editions)

By Gertrude Stein

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The literary theories of American expatriate Gertrude Stein (1874–1946) strongly influenced a generation of young American writers (notably Hemingway), and her ideas about writing still provoke and stimulate.

Although much of her own work embodies innovative experimentation with language and sound, the present volume is fairly conventional in style and quite accessible. Regarded by some critics as a minor masterpiece, *Three Lives* was Stein's first published book. In it she tells the stories of three working class women — Anna, a conscientious but rigid serving woman; Stories, a worldly-wise and sensitive black girl; and Lena, a gentle but feeble-minded maid.

Although these are relatively ordinary women, in Stein's hands their lives and minds take on extraordinary interest. Told in clear, carefully crafted prose, these stories are not only memorable works in themselves but an excellent entree to Stein's later work.

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Three Lives (Dover Thrift Editions) By Gertrude Stein Bibliography

- Rank: #321097 in Books
- Brand: Gertrude Stein
- Published on: 2011-03-17
- Released on: 2011-02-17
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.21" h x .45" w x 5.18" l, .31 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 176 pages

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Editorial Review

From the Inside Flap

Consists of three character studies of women; "The Good Anna"--a kind but domineering German servingwoman; "Melanctha"--an uneducated but sensitive black girl; "The Gentle Lena"--a pathetically feebleminded young German maid.

From the Back Cover

In these three stories, Gertrude Stein put into practice certain theories about prose composition that paralleled the ideas expressed in the art of Impressionist and Post-Impressionist painters.

About the Author

Gertrude Stein (1874–1946) was an American-Jewish writer, poet and art collector who spent most of her life in France. While living in Paris, Gertrude began writing for publication. Her earliest writings were mainly retellings of her college experiences. Her first critically acclaimed publication was *Three Lives*. Sherwood Anderson in his public introduction to Stein's 1922 publication of *Geography and Plays* wrote: "For me the work of Gertrude Stein consists in a rebuilding, an entirely new recasting of life, in the city of words. Here is one artist who has been able to accept ridicule, who has even forgone the privilege of writing the great American novel, uplifting our English speaking stage, and wearing the bays of the great poets to go live among the little housekeeping words, the swaggering bullying street-corner words, the honest working, money saving words and all the other forgotten and neglected citizens of the sacred and half forgotten city.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Michael Gibson:

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