



Epitaph of a Small Winner: A Novel (FSG Classics)

By Machado de Assis

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In these memoirs, Braz Cubas, a wealthy nineteenth-century Brazilian, examines (from beyond the grave) his rather undistinguished life in 160 short chapters that are filled with philosophical digressions and exuberant insights. A clear forerunner of Gabriel García Márquez and Jorge Luis Borges, *Epitaph for a Small Winner*, first published in 1880, is one of the wittiest self-portraits in literary history as well as "one of the masterpieces of Brazilian literature" (Salman Rushdie).

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Editorial Review

Review

“*Epitaph of a Small Winner* is probably one of those thrillingly original, radically skeptical books that will always impress readers with the force of private discovery.” *?From the foreword by Susan Sontag*

“Machado de Assis was a literary force, transcending nationality and language, comparable certainly to Flaubert, Hardy, or James...*Epitaph of a Small Winner* is clearly one of those books which we call definitive. It is there, complete, done: a study of ironic disillusionment couched in the most delicate suavity of despair...” *?The New York Times Book Review*

“No satirist, not even Swift, is less merciful in his exposure of the pretentiousness and the hypocrisy that lurk in the average good man and woman. Machado, in his deceptively amiable way, is terrifying.” *?The New Republic*

“A masterpiece of Epicurean irony.” *?The New York Times*

About the Author

Machado de Assis (1839-1908) is considered one of Brazil's greatest novelists.

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