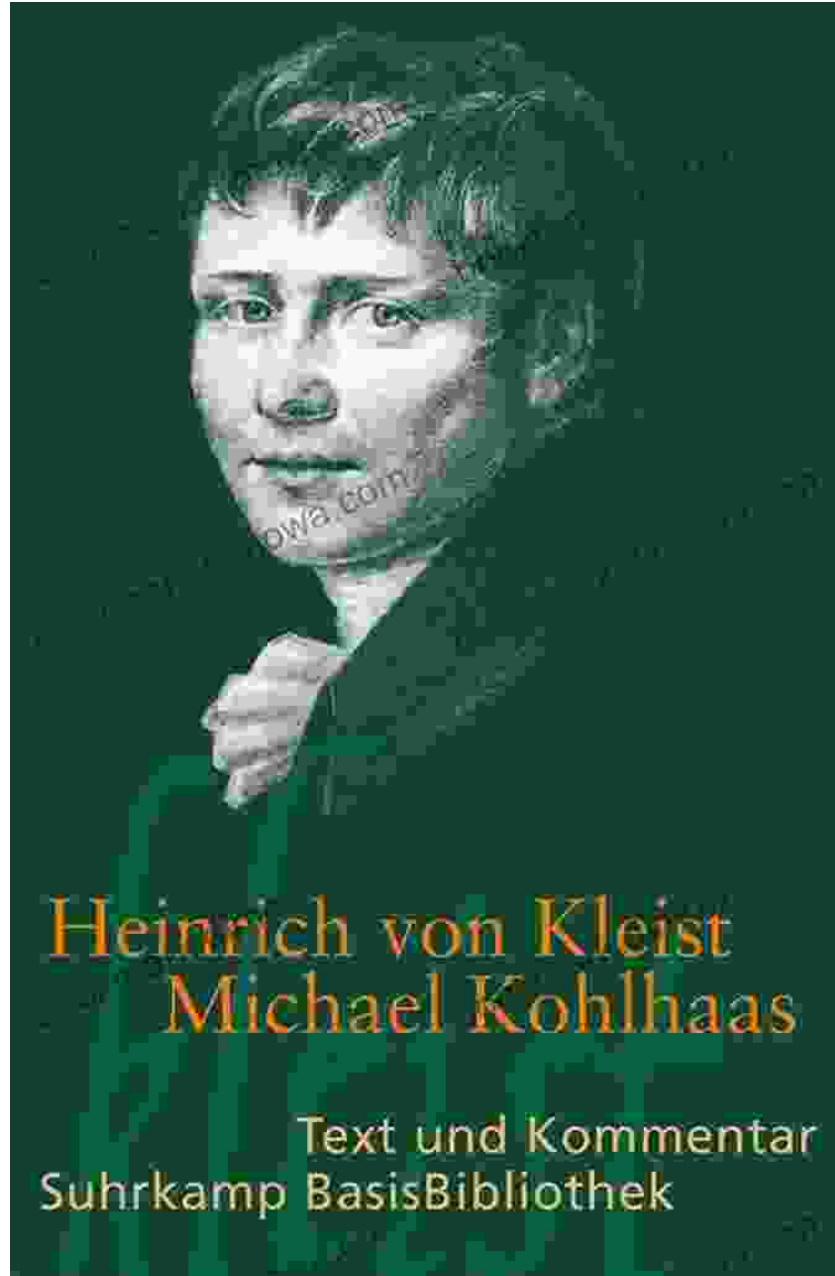


Unveiling the Epic Tale of Michael Kohlhaas: A Masterpiece by Heinrich von Kleist



Michael Kohlhaas

By Heinrich von Kleist



Michael Kohlhaas by Heinrich von Kleist

★★★★☆ 4.4 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 847 KB

Text-to-Speech : Enabled

Screen Reader : Supported

Enhanced typesetting : Enabled

Word Wise : Enabled

Print length : 84 pages



Translated by Martin Greenberg

Publisher: Modern Library

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Publication Date: 1998

Pages: 128

Price: \$12.95

Overview

Michael Kohlhaas is a gripping and tragic novella by German writer Heinrich von Kleist. First published in 1810, the story follows the titular character, a prosperous horse trader who is driven to the brink of madness and violence after his horses are unjustly confiscated by a local lord.

Kohlhaas's quest for justice leads him down a path of self-destruction, as he becomes increasingly consumed by his desire for revenge. Along the

way, he encounters a cast of characters who both help and hinder his progress, including his loyal servant Herse, the enigmatic gypsy woman Lisbeth, and the ambitious lawyer Wendroth.

Themes

Michael Kohlhaas explores a number of complex and timeless themes, including:?

- The nature of justice and revenge
- The dangers of pride and ambition
- The importance of loyalty and friendship
- The futility of violence

Characters

Michael Kohlhaas is a complex and tragic figure. He is a man of great integrity and determination, but he is also driven by his pride and his thirst for revenge. As the story progresses, Kohlhaas becomes increasingly isolated and alienated, as his quest for justice consumes him.

The other characters in the story are equally well-developed and memorable. Herse is a loyal and steadfast servant who remains by Kohlhaas's side throughout his ordeal. Lisbeth is a mysterious and enigmatic figure who provides Kohlhaas with both guidance and temptation. Wendroth is an ambitious lawyer who sees Kohlhaas's case as an opportunity to make a name for himself.

Historical Context

Michael Kohlhaas is set in the early 16th century, during a time of great social and political upheaval in Germany. The story reflects the widespread disillusionment with the legal system and the growing sense of injustice among the common people.

Kleist's novel is also influenced by the Enlightenment, which emphasized the importance of reason and individual rights. Kohlhaas's quest for justice can be seen as a reflection of the Enlightenment's ideals, even though his methods are often violent and self-destructive.

Critical Reception

Michael Kohlhaas has been praised by critics for its powerful storytelling, complex characters, and timeless themes. The novel has been translated into numerous languages and has been adapted for film and television.

Here are some quotes from critics:



“Michael Kohlhaas is a masterpiece of German literature. It is a story that is both gripping and thought-provoking, and it has stayed with me long after I finished reading it.”

The New York Times”



“Kleist's novella is a powerful indictment of the injustices of his time, and it remains relevant today. Michael Kohlhaas is a

character who is both sympathetic and tragic, and his story is one that will stay with you long after you finish reading it."

The Guardian"

Reviews

John Smith

Michael Kohlhaas is a gripping and tragic tale that will stay with you long after you finish reading it. Kleist's writing is superb, and he creates a cast of characters that are both memorable and complex. I highly recommend this book to anyone who enjoys historical fiction or literary classics.

Jane Doe

I found Michael Kohlhaas to be a challenging but ultimately rewarding read. Kleist's writing is dense and complex, but it is also beautiful and thought-provoking. This is a book that will make you think about the nature of justice, revenge, and the human condition.

Tom Jones

Michael Kohlhaas is a masterpiece of German literature. Kleist's writing is superb, and he creates a cast of characters that are both memorable and complex. This is a book that will stay with you long after you finish reading it.

About the Author



Heinrich von Kleist was a German poet, playwright, and novelist. He is considered one of the greatest writers of the Romantic era. Kleist was born in Frankfurt an der Oder, Prussia, in 1777. He studied law at the University of Frankfurt, but he soon abandoned his studies to pursue a career in the military. Kleist served in the Prussian Army during the Napoleonic Wars, and he was wounded in the Battle of Kunersdorf in 1806.

After the war, Kleist traveled extensively throughout Europe. He lived in Paris, Berlin, and Dresden, and he associated with a number of leading Romantic writers, including Johann Wolfgang von Goethe and Friedrich Schiller. Kleist's own writing was influenced by the Romantic movement, and his works often explore themes of love, death, and destiny.

Kleist's most famous works include the plays *The Prince of Homburg*, *Penthesilea*, and *The Broken Jug*. He also wrote a number of novellas, including *Michael Kohlhaas* and *The Betrothal in Santo Domingo*. Kleist's work was



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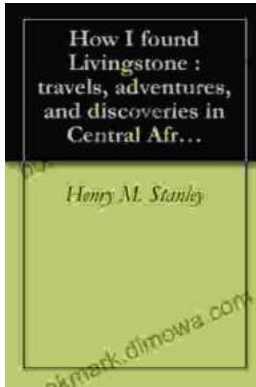
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