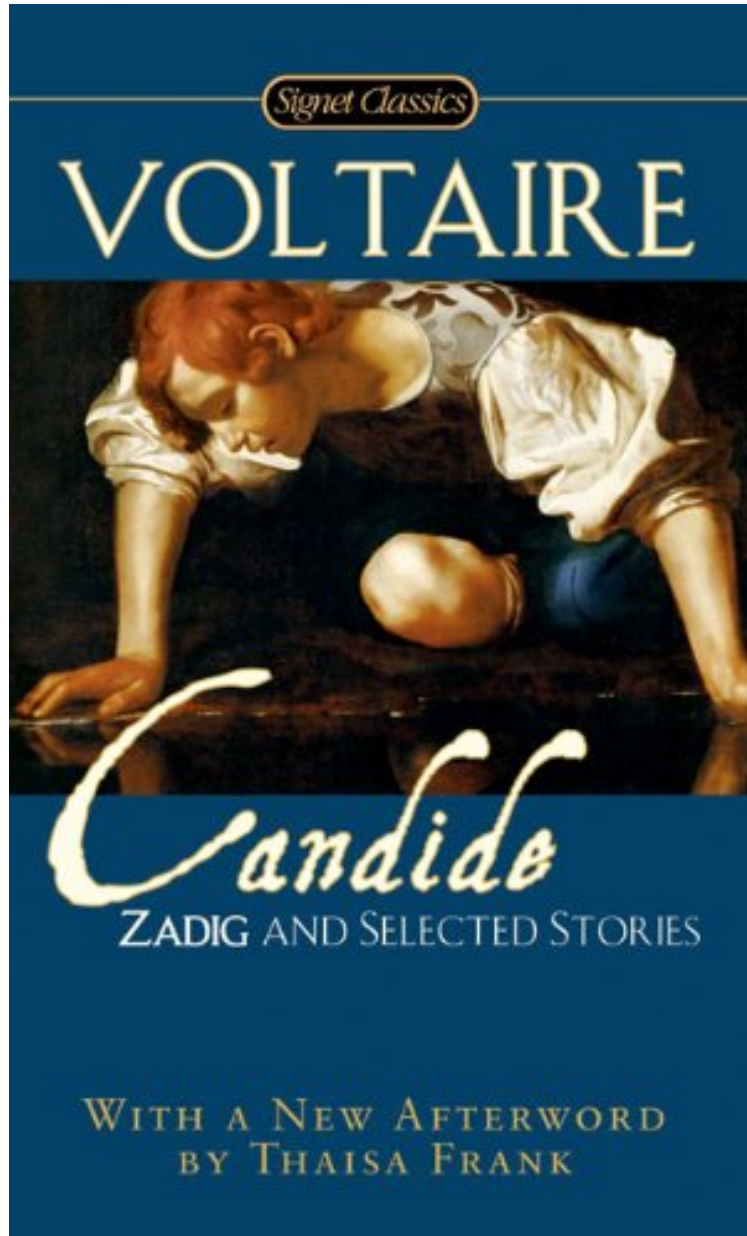


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## **Candide: Zadig and Selected Stories**

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#168896 in Books Francois Voltaire 2009-01-06 2009-01-06 Original language: English PDF # 1 6.75 x 1.05 x 4.251, .40 Binding: Mass Market Paperback 400 pages Candide Zadig and Selected Stories | File size: 61.Mb

**Francois Voltaire : Candide: Zadig and Selected Stories** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Candide: Zadig and Selected Stories:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. he takes great pains to ridicule the writings of both Milton and ...By CustomerVoltaire had an interesting and sometimes tumultuous relation with "The Church" and religious thought of his time. In *Candide*, he takes great pains to ridicule the writings of both Milton and Alexander Pope, more specifically the latter in *An Essay on Man*, in which both writers attempt to "vindicate the ways of God to man". To understand this, or better, to have read these writings will further illuminate what Voltaire is attempting in *Candide*. *Candide* is the protagonist and is a seemingly good-hearted but rather simple fellow whose mentor, Pangloss, teaches him that no matter what happens it is always for the best. As a note, pay attention to each of the main characters names as they seem to me to have a descriptive quality to them, e.g. Pan, meaning "all" and gloss from the Greek glossa, meaning tongue, to get a name that roughly means "all talk". The story begins with *Candide* and his love interest being suddenly separated and the events of his life from there. What follows in the story is a series of horrible events mixed with some virtuous ones that Pangloss continuously explains to *Candide* that whatever happens is for the best. Even if you have no philosophical interest, the book is both funny and sad, entertaining yet thought provoking with a couple of memorable passages. I consider it a pretty good read and, as a bonus, a quick one. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. was it from seeing me chased from their beautiful castle...?" And the response he gets is ...By Shane *Candide* is one of my top ten novels due to just how hilarious and sarcastic of a work it is. It is very tongue-in-cheek, and a must read for anyone who enjoys classic/world literature. Voltaire holds back zero punches in this work, and his condemnation of politics, war, religion, and social status drips through the pages. For just an example of also how brutal Voltaire gets within this work, there is a passage where *Candide* asks, "But what did she die of...was it from seeing me chased from their beautiful castle...?" And the response he gets is like a round-house kick to *Candide*'s moronic Disney like world view. "No...She was disembowelled by Bulgar Soldiers..." There is more to the passage, but my point is there are many moments like this through the work where *Candide* has this beautiful idea of how the world is supposed to be, and then his perceptions are shattered in some pretty horrific ways. There are zero dull moments in this work, but it is also a very quick read. All of the horrors, and comedy (this is def a dark comedy) leads to a well thought out point. I won't spoil it here for other readers, but the ending is actually a happy one. Voltaire illustrates superb writing skills within the simple fact that he can write about such insane and gruesome events throughout almost the whole book, but end the whole dark sandwich with a peaceful, almost Zen like calm. I give this little book five out of five stars. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. One of the best satires By tkI have read *Candide* before. Without hesitation, I claim it is one of the two best satires I've read in my life (the other being *A Connecticut Yankee* by Mark Twain). I was looking for more work by Voltaire and once I saw this book on my suggestions only for \$5, I jumped on it. This book not only has *Candide* and *Zadig*, his two major stories, but a lot of shorter satires that are as brilliant as the novels. Voltaire, in 18th century France, was a prolific satirical writer and defender of civil liberties and freedom of thought. Voltaire rips on the aristocracies around the world (not just French!), religion, ignorance and male-dominance; and uplifts liberty, freedom of thought and speech and the scientific method by a "series of unfortunate events" that the protagonist goes through. His subtle wit and satire leave a much stronger mark on the reader than the contemporary empty, loud and goofy comedies. The stories are not just philosophical rants about the author's opinion, rather he exposes the weaker sides of the era's social/religious beliefs, and leaves the interpretation and "moral of the story" to the reader. If you are looking for a hearty laugh, that is also intellectually stimulating, I strongly recommend this book.

France's most distinguished man of letters This essential collection from the genius Voltaire includes his masterpiece and best-known work *Candide*, as well as his novel *Zadig* and fourteen short stories: "Micromegas," "The World as It Is," "Memnon," "Bababec and the Fakirs," "History of Scarmentado's Travels," "Plato's Dream," "Account of the Sick, Confession, Death, and Apparition of the Jesuit Berthier," "Story of a Good Brahman," "Jeannot and Colin," "An Indian Adventure," "Ingenuous," "The One-Eyed Porter," "Memory's Adventure," "Count Chesterfield's Ears," and "Chaplain Goudman."

Language Notes Text: English (translation) Original Language: French About the Author François-Marie Arouet, writing under the pseudonym Voltaire, was born in 1694 into a Parisian bourgeois family. Educated by Jesuits, he was an excellent pupil but one quickly enraged by dogma. An early rift with his father—who wished him to study law—led to his choice of letters as a career. Insinuating himself into court circles, he became notorious for lampoons on leading notables and was twice imprisoned in the Bastille. By his mid-thirties his literary activities precipitated a four-year exile in England where he won the praise of Swift and Pope for his political tracts. His publication, three years later in France, of *Lettres philosophiques sur les Anglais* (1733)—an attack on French Church and State—forced him to flee again. For twenty years Voltaire lived chiefly away from Paris. In this, his most prolific period, he wrote such satirical tales as "Zadig" (1747) and "Candide" (1759). His old age at Ferney, outside Geneva, was made bright by his adopted daughter, "Belle et Bonne," and marked by his intercessions in behalf of victims of political injustice. Sharp-witted and lean in his white wig, impatient with all appropriate rituals, he died in Paris in 1778—the foremost French author

of his day.