

[Ebook free] The House of Ulloa (Penguin Classics)

## The House of Ulloa (Penguin Classics)

*Emilia Pardo Bazan*

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**Emilia Pardo Bazan : The House of Ulloa (Penguin Classics)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The House of Ulloa (Penguin Classics):

23 of 24 people found the following review helpful. A wonderful classic of 19th century Spanish prose.By D. FloresEmilia Pardo Bazán stands as perhaps the Spanish speaking world's greatest woman novelist. Along with Galdos and Clarín she was one of the three most important writers of late 19th century Spain. An intellectual of astounding breadth, she was the leading exponent of the Naturalist literary school in her country, -- as attested by her numerous

theoretical writings on the subject -- and was an outspoken feminist. She also wrote the first review of Darwin's *Origin of the Species* to appear in print in Spain. *The House of Ulloa* is the work of fiction for which she is best known, and is also the work which perhaps best illustrates Pardo Bazán's own peculiar and unorthodox conception of Naturalism. A primitive and violent rural countryside provides the setting for the novel. When Julian, a cultured and somewhat effeminate priest arrives at the house of the Marquis of Ulloa, he discovers a brutish place which is physically falling prey to creeping nature. Weeds and plants have encroached on the property and whole sections of the once magnificent manor have fallen into disrepair. Julian attempts to "save" the Marquis by marrying him to a city dwelling cousin. The plan, however, does not sit well with Primitivo, the Marquis' ruthless and violent butler. Primitivo exercises a defacto control over the Marquis' property and finances, and is alarmed by the intrusion of the new inhabitants. His opposition is heightened by the fact that the Marquis has borne an illegitimate child of Primitivo's daughter and the new arrivals threaten his grandson's eventual claims to inheritance. Thus the stage is set for a powerful and cruel denouement.

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Spain turn of the XIX century  
By Customer  
A young and inexperienced priest arrives to an old and aristocratic house which is in clear falling in pieces. He strongly feels that the state of the house is the consequence of the moral decay of its owner who is a good for nothing, solely interested in hunting activities and who had a bastard son with the maid of the house. The priest believes that the sacrament of matrimony, will render the fruits upon Señor de Ulloa soul and sets himself the goal of finding him a bride suitable for such high designations. The Marquis due to quite distorted reasoning ends up choosing a cousin who is not very attractive and a little weak instead of the one he was really attracted to. The aims of the priest clash head to head with the long term plans of Primitivo a sort of family housekeeper with a self appointed position who have been stealing the proceeds of the hacienda's and is waiting for the proper moment to take full control of the Marquis de Ulloa's land properties. At that moment will become due when Spain is shaken by liberal movements and the novelty of the democratic process. The role of women on this novel shall not go unnoticed, since both the maid and the aristocratic lady of the house are also a reflection of the era which is gaining momentum Spain and it is reflected on the health of both ladies and in which the Spaniards were simultaneously spectators and protagonists as well as in the sexual preferences of the Marquis de Ulloa.

0 of 9 people found the following review helpful. Entertaining historical novel with very good descriptions of characters and places  
By meneca richardson  
Entertaining historical novel with very good descriptions of characters and places.

An unforgettable tragicomic novel of sexual and political intrigue in 19th-century Spain  
One of the greatest nineteenth-century Spanish novels, *The House of Ulloa* follows pious Father Julián Alvarez, who is sent to a crumbling country estate to put in order the affairs of the marquis, an irresponsible libertine. When the sensitive priest discovers the moral decadence, cruelty, and corruption at his new home, his well-meaning but ineffectual attempts to prevent the fall of the House of Ulloa end in tragedy. Combining gothic elements with humor and social satire, *The House of Ulloa* is the finest achievement of Emilia Pardo Bazán, one of the most dynamic figures of her time.

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“An absolutely first-rate novelist . . . Bazán’s genius lies in the way she mixes comedy, farce, realism and heightened-pitch hysteria with a dash of gothic. . . . People may travel by donkey in this book, but it could have been written yesterday.” —*The Guardian*

Language Notes  
Text: English (translation) Original Language: Spanish  
About the Author  
Emilia Pardo Bazán (1851–1921) was a prolific writer, a feminist, a traveler, and an intellectual who held a chair in literature at Madrid University from 1916 until her death.  
Paul O’Prey is the vice-chancellor of the University of Roehampton, London.  
Lucia Graves is a literary translator and an author. Her translations include works by Robert Graves, Anaïs Nin, and Katherine Mansfield, as well as Carlos Ruiz Zafón’s novel *The Shadow of the Wind*.