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Wonderful Fool (Peter Owen Modern Classic)

Shusaku Endo

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'Endo, to my mind, is one of the finest living novelists.'
– Graham Greene

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#881213 in Books Shusaku Endo 2008-06-01 Original language: English PDF # 1 7.20 x .60 x 5.001, .40 #File Name: 0720613205200 pages Wonderful Fool | File size: 72.Mb

Shusaku Endo : Wonderful Fool (Peter Owen Modern Classic) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Wonderful Fool (Peter Owen Modern Classic):

0 of 2 people found the following review helpful. This is great :) By A.B. Came in pristine condition. Bought it for a class but it's very entertaining and endearing. Characters are likable and I want to read to the end to find out why Gaston went to Japan for his "quest." 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. My Favorite of Endo's Books By James Sommerville The protagonist in the story is a tall, horse-faced French missionary priest who comes to Japan for a reason that no one can understand until the end of the story. Gaston Bonaparte is clumsy and inept. He is fearful and foolish. He is an embarrassment to his friends and a laughing stock to everyone else. But Gaston has a

tender, loving heart. He is unfailingly loyal and believes the best of everyone—against all evidence. In the end, those who held him in contempt are changed by his goodness. His invincible kindness makes him, in the words of one of the characters in the story, a "wonderful fool." Endo, in the story, seems to be saying that someone with no charisma, no gifts, and no wisdom can shine with the love of Christ, and precisely because his remarkable love is combined with great limitations, can bring others to repentance and to God. This story reminds me of Dostoevsky's "The Idiot," but I think this one is better. 4 of 5 people found the following review helpful. A Parable From Shusako Endo By R. J. Marsella Wonderful Fool is a remarkable parable of a simple man who suddenly appears in the lives of a brother and sister who are residents of Tokyo. Gaston Bonaparte, a physically large simplistic and seemingly naive visitor, wanders the city befriending prostitutes, a stray dog, a fortune teller and ultimately a dangerous gangster. Regardless of how he gets treated he responds with an almost inhuman level of kindness and concern for all. Endo has written a parable of an almost Christlike figure who stands out not only for his physical difference but for his capacity to absorb mistreatment and pain without harboring resentment. This is a beautiful short novel that has many elements to recommend it not the least of which is the cross section of Tokyo society that is encountered as the story unfolds.

Gaston Bonaparte, a young Frenchman, visits Tokyo to stay with his pen-pal Takamori. His appearance is a bitter disappointment to his new friends and his behavior causes them acute embarrassment. He is a trusting person with a simple love for others, and he continues to trust even after they have demonstrated deceit and betrayal. He spends his time not sightseeing but making friends with street children, stray dogs, prostitutes, and gangsters. This novel charts his misadventures with sharp irony, satire, and objectivity.

From Publishers Weekly In Japanese novelist Endo's 1959 satire, an awkward but noble young Frenchman challenges the self-satisfied moral apathy of a Japanese family. Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc. Language Notes Text: English, Japanese (translation) About the Author Shusaku Endo is widely regarded as one of the greatest Japanese authors of the late 20th century. He has won many major literary awards and was nominated for the Nobel Prize several times. His novels, which have been translated into 28 languages, include Deep River, The Samurai, Scandal, The Sea and Poison, and Silence.