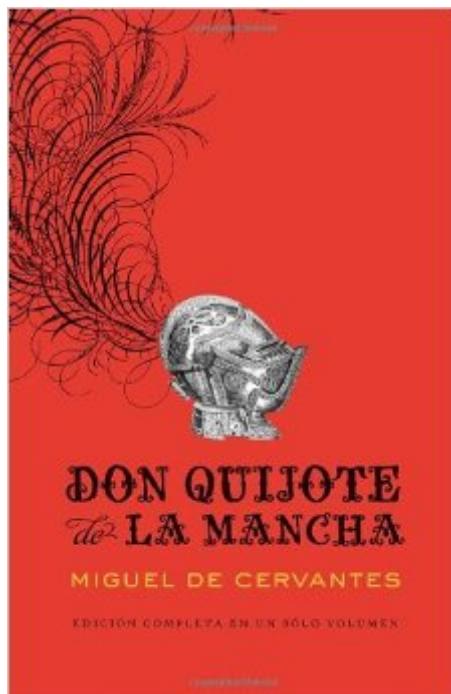


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# Don Quijote De La Mancha (Spanish Edition)



## **Synopsis**

This volume presents the timeless story of Don Quijote de la Mancha, a nobleman driven crazy by reading too many chivalry books, who sets out with his loyal servant Sancho on a quest to find adventure, glory, and the love of Dulcinea.

## **Book Information**

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Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 starsÂ  See all reviewsÂ  (39 customer reviews)

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## **Customer Reviews**

Every language goes through many changes as time goes on. Sometimes we find it difficult to understand certain key words, before getting the whole message. But humor and funny situations never lose their charm, no matter language difficulty. That is very clear as you read the adventures of Don Quijote. It is relatively easy to draw a mental picture of all his adventures and his relationship with Sancho... who is also funny in his own and very special way. Since Spanish is my "native" language, I have little difficulty understanding this humorous novel - the very first of the genre. Non-Spanish speaking readers may have some trouble following the long and twisty sentences in it. But then, I have that same trouble when I read Shakespeare!

Few novels changed literature more than that about the crazed country landowner who takes up the mission of knighthood and heads down the road with his neighbor/squire in search of adventure. The very first recorded novel in Western literature. Yet it is so much more than that. Reading the progression of Don Quixote's exploits, one learns of the rapidly changing world around him and how antiquated his desire for honor may seem to a Spain emerging from feudalism and centuries of

conflict between Christian knights and Moorish overlords, a Spain entering the world of colonialism and Empire, with little need for antiquated notions of chivalry. A Spain newly confident of its identity as a Catholic world power that has emptied itself of its dreaded "others" like the Muslims and the Jews. The text is peppered with references to empty villages and houses testifying to the void left by these departures, as noted by literary critic Tariq Ali. A Spain where the once powerful landed country class now is reduced by competition from foreign conquest, left with little to do but time for consuming maudlin romances of chivalry and fantasy, so much so that one member of that social class can only find meaning by taking up his ancestral armor and living out those ridiculous stories in the world that is rejecting their very *raison d'être*. Where the once-despised simple peasantry seem to have more awareness than those who were once powerful and overbearing land holders. This book could be read on so many levels - as a satirical commentary on an anachronistic fool's incomprehension at a changing Spain, as a metafictional send-up of the chivalric genre, as a comedy of class relations, as an exploration of upper class madness and lunacy counterpoised to Shakespeare's analysis of this in King Lear. The complexity of this book on so many levels makes it a true work of art from the Renaissance period. It signaled the birth of the novel as a literary form in Western literature, making its appearance with a bang, pushing aside the narrative romances that had dominated Western prose for so long. Whether read as social commentary of the Dickensian vein, as a class-comedy rivaling that of Jane Austen, as a light yet penetrating psychological drama in league with Dostoevsky or as a bold literary experiment with form in the tradition of the great modernist and postmodernist writings of Joyce, Proust, Nabokov, Faulkner, Pynchon or DeLillo, *Don Quixote* could be said to be the blueprint for the Western novel in all its possibilities. To paraphrase Carlos Fuentes, here are the great Western novelists in their embryonic state.

It is VERY difficult to find *Don Quixote* in Spanish, the entire book, at a good price. This is the one!

estoy feliz por recibir mi libro...lo lei cuando era muy joven y ahora lo quidiero volver a leer...soy Madura y voy a valorar el aprendizaje recibido... gracias por darme la facilidad de tener en mi poder viejos y valiosos libros por un precio modico y al alcance de mi bolsillo.

La gran historia de Cide Hamete Benengeli, traducida por Miguel de Cervantes, nos relata las aventuras de Alonso Quijano, mejor conocido como *Don Quijote de la Mancha*--aunque algunos le llaman el Caballero de la Triste Figura, y aun otros le dicen el Caballero de Los Leones--. Acompañado de su fiel y sobrepesado escudero, Sancho Panza, va en busca de tuertos a quien

enderezar, de menesterosos a quien ayudar, de Ánsulas para regalar, y mÁquinas para destrozar. Pero hay un rival que no lo deja triunfar: el mago FrestÁn quien convierte a gigantes en Molinos de vientos, a feroces ejÁrcitos en ovejas y carneros, y a bellas doncellas en viles rameras. Pero esto no importa ni podrÁj detener a nuestro hÁroe, pues con la ayuda de Dios, y la inspiraciÁn de su dama Dulcinea, serÁj capaz de darle fin a esta desdichada edad de hierro, y renacer a la dorada. Aquella edad en cual el hombre ignoraba las palabras "tuyo y mÁ- o", donde existÁ- a comunidad, y donde el agua del rÁo se podÁ- a tomar: "Todo era paz entonces, todo amistad, todo concordia". No se deje engaÑar por esos cuentos falsos de caballerÁ- a andante; lea la historia verdadera de alguien que supo actuar, por alguien que la supo escribir.

Is a very basic edition; text only, the original old style Spanish, no for students of modern Spanish. still, I enjoy reading it.

Purchased this fro my husband since he requested it for his birthday. It keeps him interested and away from bugging me!

It has been 25 years since I have reas Don Quijote. I am taking it slow but the thrill is coming back to me full force!

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