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"Life Is A Dream" And Other Spanish Classics (Eric Bentley's Dramatic Repertoire Volume Two)



Synopsis

(Applause Books). Translations of four great Spanish dramas: Calderon de la Barca *Life Is a Dream* ; Miguel de Cervantes *Siege of Numantia* ; Lope de Vega *Fuente Ovejuna* ; Tirso de Molina *The Trickster of Seville* .

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Customer Reviews

When I entered college in 1971, this anthology, first published in 1959, was a godsend. At the time it was published, the plays in it were either unavailable in English translations or available in far less readable, much older ones. The translations of Calderon plays by Edwin Honig, and of Lope de Vega by Jill Booty, were not published until two years after this volume, as Mermaid dramabooks, so for two good years the only translations of *Fuenteovejuna* or *Life Is a Dream* anybody would care to read in English were in this volume. Whether there's been a better translation of *The Siege of Numantia* or *The Trickster of Seville* since 1959, I have no idea. This volume was one of four called *The Classic Theatre*, and it was a considerably helpful publishing undertaking, consisting of Italian Renaissance plays, French neoclassical plays, German neoclassical plays, and these. The books were available as mass-market paperbacks, too, that either a poor student or a thirsty lay reader could afford to lay hands on. It was an important series, and one more reason why Eric Bentley, for a number of years, was an international treasure and a boon to the English speaking world's cultural memory of its European dramatic heritage. Bentley not only managed to lay hands upon new translations by the South African poet Roy Campbell, he had to edit their final form after Campbell's

untimely death in 1957. Campbell was a poet admired by Eliot and the Sitwells, and an enthusiastic scholar of Spanish, whose reputation was damaged by his admiration for Franco. Even now, his translations are readable.

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