



## Balzac. La novela de una vida

*Stefan Zweig*

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## Balzac. La novela de una vida Stefan Zweig

La biografía que Stefan Zweig escribió sobre Balzac refleja la vida de un hombre que se la juega, que lo intenta una y otra vez, que se cae y se levanta constantemente, hasta el final. ¿Qué no se puede volver a empezar?... Lean la vida de Balzac. Sobrevivió al desprecio, a las trampas de los editores e incluso a las deudas. "Eugenio Ibarzabal"

## Balzac. La novela de una vida Details

Date : Published October 5th 2016 by Greenbooks Editore (first published January 1st 1946)

ISBN :

Author : Stefan Zweig

Format : Kindle Edition 333 pages

Genre : Biography, Nonfiction, History, Biography Memoir, Literature



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## From Reader Review Balzac. La novela de una vida for online ebook

### Prakhar Bindal says

On the joys of working one's self to death. The chapter 'Black Coffee' is a masterpiece of imaginative reconstruction.

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### Michael Finocchiaro says

Not my favorite account of Balzac's life (and honestly I am open to suggestions because I have not found one that really interests me yet), and yet written with Zweig's typical wit, I was a bit underwhelmed with this particular one :(

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### Sevim Soy says

Talihsizliklerle dolu bir ya?amöyküsü... Her ?eye ra?men asla ümitsizli?e ve karamsar!??a kap?lmayan bir adam... Balzac'?n bu ders al?nacak nitelikteki ya?am? insan? dü?ümeye itiyor, okunmas?n? ilgililerine ?iddetle tavsiye ederim :) ?yi okumalar :) \*?nsan?n ba??na hep ayn? ?ey geliyor : Tam bir karara varmak üzere oldu?u an, inanc?n? kaybetmeye ba?l?yor.

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### Jonfaith says

**Golden sparks of playful good humor flashed from his dark eyes as he boasted, scoffed, laughed and intoxicated himself and his listeners. When he was able to scatter his bounty there was nobody to compare with Balzac.**

This baggy biography is a joyful mess, but one explained in a postscript by Zweig's friend Paul Friedenthal. The manuscript was still inchoate at the time of Zweig's death in Brazil. There is something timeless and human in the ambition of both Balzac and Zweig. It is easy for the modern reader to point out their respective hasty myopia but, then, who exactly is above such? There isn't much textual analysis in this hefty tome. It isn't unduly ribald either. The work does portray a symphony of errors throughout Balzac's life from his youthful hubris of penning a verse tragedy on Cromwell through his abortive involvement/investment in publishing, the stock market, art collecting and his much ridiculed rustic sanctuary where the retaining walls kept collapsing. Balzac was doomed in love as well and Zweig pulls no punches in his characterization of Balzac's wife Madame Eve De Hanksa: a bored snob who wanted to shag celebrity.

4.6 stars rounded up

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### **Helen Epstein says**

A biography of a prolific author by a prolific author. This is a delicious biography that takes you into the world of a writer of the 19th century with surprising parallels to the writer's world today: dealing with publicity, publishers, fans and contracts as well as finding the time to write, looking for good stories, imbibing stimulants to keep awake. All there and all fluently told.

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### **David C Ward says**

An excellent old fashioned character study. Balzac's life turns out to be like a Balzac novel with the exception of his ferocious will to write. He strictly regimented his writing life and the rest was a chaos of debt, courtships of women with money, and a series of madcap schemes many of which are comic - Sardinian silver mines?? The writings are treated in a general way - the literary project and the development of the realistic novel. The couple of pages on Balzac's reviews of Stendhal and the latter's gratitude are touching.

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### **R.K. Cowles says**

4 1/2 stars

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### **Dagny says**

An excellent and highly readable biography by Zweig who is an author himself of both fiction and non-fiction.

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### **K. says**

Une biographie qui se répète beaucoup, ce qui l'empêche de prendre de la hauteur sur le personnage de Balzac. Zweig fait preuve d'une grande complaisance pour Balzac en ce qui concerne ses relations amoureuses. Par exemple, pourquoi, alors que Balzac confie à ses correspondantes tout au long de sa vie vouloir épouser une riche veuve qui acquitterait sa dette, accorder tant de crédit à son amour pour Mme Hanska et condamner le fait qu'elle-même se moquerait de lui?

Cependant Zweig a le mérite d'insister véritablement sur le travail, les conditions d'écriture de Balzac, et l'écriture tente de restituer le côté rabelaisien de l'auteur.

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### **Mamoun Sinaceur says**

Que de souffrances dans sa vie je ne connaissais pas du tout la vie de Balzac.

Je suis complètement accro aux biographies de Stefan Zweig et celle-là est particulièrement fabuleuse.

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## Dorien says

Balzac, eine Biographie

Op een zomerdag in een uitleen-boekenkist bij een zwembad gevonden, in een park in Zwitserland. Twee grote vliegen in één klap: Stefan Zweig beschrijft het leven van Balzac zo hilarisch boeiend, dat ik me niets beters kon voorstellen, dan aan Balzacs oeuvre te beginnen. Vol respect bracht ik het boek terug. Een week erna was het weg, maar lag er een Balzac in die kist.

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## Encarni Prados says

Elegí este libro porque me encanta como escribe Zweig, su biografía de María Estuardo me gustó mucho, sin embargo, este se me ha hecho muy denso, está escrito más como ensayo que como novela y se nota, no se me ha hecho pesado pero me costaba avanzar en su lectura. Sin embargo la vida de Balzac es digna de conocerse, desde sus comienzos, (vaya madre) hasta el final, una persona que no dejaría indiferente a nadie y con una capacidad de escribir imposible para un simple mortal

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## Tormund says

Mükemmel bir biyografi.

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## Elizabeth (Alaska) says

I had several thoughts while reading this, especially at the beginning.

First, that it is such a pleasure when a book comes at just the right time in one's reading life. I would not have been able to appreciate this as much had I read it before reading any Balzac. Zweig often mentions Balzac's genius and I would not have been in a position to understand without having read him. I feel it is also good that I did not wait until the end of my Balzac journey. I now have some perspective on the 60 or so titles remaining to me.

Second, that I hate it when I am so wrong. I said something in writing my review of *The Muse of the Department* about "lesser works" so not to expect them to be so good. I am happy to say that Zweig whetted my appetite for several more titles, not a few of which are not "lesser works." Yes, there are some lesser works ahead of me. I now have some perspective on even these.

As to the added insight into Balzac's life, I found an immense contrast between his ability to see the reality of life as written in his novels, and his apparent absence of the same when it came to his own life. He worked 12-15 hours a day giving us these works of genius and earned enormous sums in their publication. But he spent more than he earned and was in perpetual debt. In spite of his confidence in his ability to write great novels, he lacked complete confidence in himself as a person and was continually trying to make people believe he was something he was not.

For me, this started a bit slowly, but I can say that about many books I read. I expected to appreciate Zweig's style, and I was not disappointed. Though Zweig includes summaries or descriptions of many titles, I never felt any of my yet unread of Balzac's works was spoiled by too much information. There is an appendix with a good timeline, which includes a brief statement of what was going on in Balzac's life and the works that were published.

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### **Tomek says**

Pi?kna historia ?ycia wielkiego tw?r?cy napisana przez tw?rc? nieco bardziej kameralnego, ale przez to nie mniejszego! Sporo smacznych szczeg?ów z literackiego ?ycia XIX-wiecznego Pary?a i mocno krytyczny szkic Pani Ha?skiej. Idealne dla ka?dego kto lubi zagi?da? za kulisy wielkiej literatury!

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