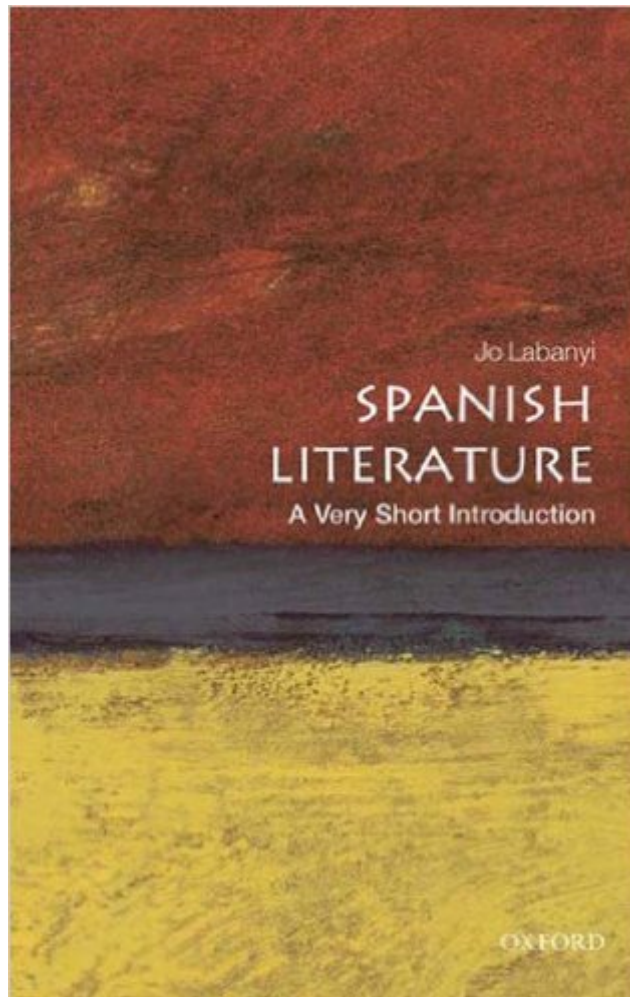


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Spanish Literature: A Very Short Introduction (Very Short Introductions)



Synopsis

Spanish literature has given the world the figures of Don Quixote and Don Juan, and is responsible for the 'invention' of the novel in the 16th century. The medieval period produced literature in Castilian, Catalan, Galician, Latin, Arabic, and Hebrew, and today there is a flourishing literature in Catalan, Galician, and Basque as well as in Castilian-the language that has become known as 'Spanish'. A multilayered history of exile has produced a transnational literary production, while writers in Spain have engaged with European cultural trends. This Very Short Introduction explores this rich literary history, which resonates with contemporary debates on transnationalism and cultural diversity. The book introduces a general readership to the ways in which Spanish literature has been read, in and outside Spain, explaining misconceptions, outlining the insights of recent scholarship and suggesting new readings. It highlights the precocious modernity of much early modern Spanish literature, and shows how the gap between modern ideas and social reality stimulated creative literary responses in subsequent periods; as well as how contemporary writers have adjusted to Spain's recent accelerated modernization. ABOUT THE SERIES: The Very Short Introductions series from Oxford University Press contains hundreds of titles in almost every subject area. These pocket-sized books are the perfect way to get ahead in a new subject quickly. Our expert authors combine facts, analysis, perspective, new ideas, and enthusiasm to make interesting and challenging topics highly readable.

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Customer Reviews

My knowledge of the history of Spanish Literature, basically starts & ends with Don Quixote, jump forward a few hundred years and I'm on safer ground. Like most people I'm aware that Miguel de Cervantes(1547 - 1616) is one of the names behind the invention of the modern novel, in around the 16th century, but there is a massive gap in my knowledge of nearly half a millennia, luckily this is where this book comes in. A Very Short Introduction - Spanish Literature (Oxford University Press), provides a handy guide to what turns out to be a rich literary history & in the process defines what it is that makes a national literature. From conquerors to exiles, from the highbrow to the downtrodden, this book sheds light on the multifaceted character of a culture & the literary treasures it has produced. Although this is a small book - at about a 144 pages - it manages to cover a lot of ground through its chapter headings; Multilingualism and porous borders This chapter attempts to define what is Spanish about "Spanish literature". By taking into consideration a nation's changing political and linguistic map, and then adding in the question of how far back in time one can go and still use the term "Spain" meaning - a cohesive whole nation state, as opposed to "a multiplicity of Christian And Muslim Kingdoms, both of which had Jewish populations". It also discusses the subject of non-state nationalism (Basque, Catalan etc.), and the rise of the exile and expatriates from 1492 through to the Franco regime.

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