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## The Nonexistent Knight and The Cloven Viscount

*Italo Calvino*

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#52968 in Books Italo Calvino J Ferrone H Wolff 1977-03-28 1977-03-28Original language:EnglishPDF # 1  
8.00 x .66 x 5.311, .55 #File Name: 0156659751246 pagesThe Nonexistent Knight and the Cloven Viscount |  
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**Italo Calvino : The Nonexistent Knight and The Cloven Viscount** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Nonexistent Knight and The Cloven Viscount:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Magical Realism? Intellectual And Literary Musings? Move Over Borges!By propertiusItalo Calvino is not for the type of reader who will agonize over whether they should give a book "4 stars" or "4.5 stars" and then give their appallingly vapid comments which illustrate that they have missed the whole point of the book, or in Calvino's case all the points while giving a synopsis which postures as revelation.Italo

Calvino requires that the reader pays careful attention to each sentence as all masterly crafted works of art do. Calvino may be difficult when first approached because he is speaking about a plethora of ideas and in this book with an amusing set of masks presented in an amusing "favola." Within this fable are his musings on literary, political, and aesthetic trends. A knight who doesn't exist outside his armor, thoughts about medieval story-telling, Cervantes, a cloistered nun, a love story and Charlemagne. If you try to synopsise this novella, then you will destroy the experience. It is delightful to realize that the deeper you become emotionally involved with the characters, the more you sense that Calvino is speaking to you personally. So with a little patience, you enter a magical world rooted in the very realistic soil of contemporary concerns. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A Masterpiece of Modern Literature By Bryan Kerr Sometimes a book is so good that you go to bed at 3am only to wake up at 5am because you've decided that finishing that book is more important than going back to bed. Italo Calvino's *The Nonexistent Knight* is one of those books. I'm sure I'll pay for the lack of sleep this afternoon but I had to write a review while the book is still fresh in my mind. I first read this book in Italian, and I must say that I got a whole lot more out of the English translation this time around. Italo Calvino was a Cuban born, raised and interred Italian journalist and writer. He was politically active during his younger years, with strong ties to the Italian communist party until he became jaded by the failed applications of a philosophy he thought to be near perfect. Heavily influenced by Cervantes, Shakespeare, and Dante, Calvino's writings make no attempt at masking those influences. It is said that "books are born from books," and if that's true, we would do well to choose books with impressive pedigrees. Italo Calvino was a modern Cervantes (he died in 1984). Not only was he a master at creating stories, he was a master at telling them. He was a first class raconteur. He has been accused of being pretentious because his vocabulary is more extensive than most writers, an accusation more writers should be accused of. *The Nonexistent Knight* is the story of a knight who fights in Charlemagne's army, and he does not exist. His name is Agilulf and he is nothing more than a suit of armor (there's no one inside), and yet he is so much more. Agilulf is the embodiment of living by the letter of the law. He is aloof to moments of awkwardness and female advances. As a knight errant, Agilulf sets off on a journey to defend his knighthood when it comes under question by Torrismund, another knight in Charlemagne's court. Our hero encounters promiscuous damsels in distress (they were really just jonesing for some loving), whales, nuns, and Moors. The book contains the Knights of the holy Grail, a group of harp playing, thieving bafoons who are seeking to become one with the Grail, a proletariat class who frees themselves from oppression and form an egalitarian society, wars, pseudo incest, and a surprise-twist ending. This book is rife with commentary on modern times, and best of all it is written superbly. Calvino won numerous awards for his writing, and is greatly under appreciated, though Harold Bloom was fond of him and that should be enough to convince you to read his works. Check this book out and you won't be disappointed, and you can take my word for it (read in Levar Burton's voice). 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. brilliant By ccs Long short story or novella - however you classify it, this tale is exactly as long and short as it should be. There's not a word out of place, unless you count the typos that the conversion to Kindle book has apparently caused. So maybe read the printed version first and then let your Kindle what lets you carry it around with you forever.

Two novellas: the first, a parody of medieval knighthood told by a nun; the second, a fantasy about a nobleman bisected into his good and evil halves. "Bravura pieces. . . executed with brilliance and brio" (Chicago Tribune). Translated by Archibald Colquhoun. A Helen and Kurt Wolff Book

Delightful...[*The Nonexistent Knight*] is a mordantly witty satire on the affairs of modern man...The Cloven Viscount is a dark-hued Gothic gem -- Helena Cantarella -- The New York Times Book Language Notes Text: English, Italian (translation) About the Author ITALO CALVINO (1923–1985) attained worldwide renown as one of the twentieth century's greatest storytellers. Born in Cuba, he was raised in San Remo, Italy, and later lived in Turin, Paris, Rome, and elsewhere. Among his many works are *Invisible Cities*, *If on a winter's night a traveler*, *The Baron in the Trees*, and other novels, as well as numerous collections of fiction, folktales, criticism, and essays. His works have been translated into dozens of languages.