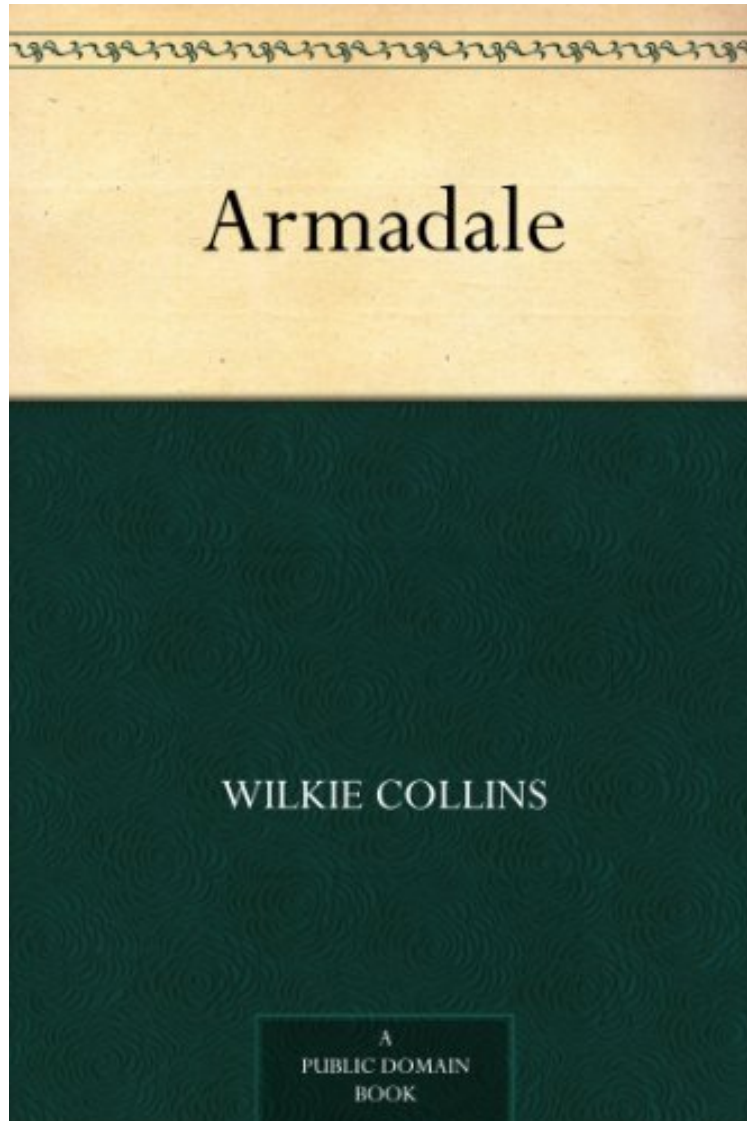


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## Armadale (English Edition)

*Von Wilkie Collins*

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**Von Wilkie Collins : Armadale (English Edition)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Armadale (English Edition):

Kundenrezensionen Hilfreichste Kundenrezensionen 4 von 4 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Fine case-study of a Victorian adventuress Von ANTONIO PETER-BLANCO "Armadale" was published between "No Name" and "The Moonstone". It is an interesting and very well written story, about human wills against fate and against each other. As with the case of the major works of Collins, there are many themes, scenes and morales that

would be selected as their favorites, by different readers. My assessment is that this fine book boils down to the story of Miss Gwilt. From the pages of her diary, you explore the mind of a sophisticated, audacious and long-suffering beauty, of magnetic attraction. It is amazing how Collins could switch personalities and have written those diary pages as if he were actually inside Miss Gwilt's mind. There are many other characters and descriptions, so realistic that you wonder if all the story really happened. And Collins' eye is so keen and his writing so effective, that in some cases even very minor characters get alive in your mind. For instance, the scene where the nurse of Mrs. Milroy (an invalid who can't leave her bed) asks for an special handkerchief of her patient, as a bribe, before opening for her an envelope adressed to other person and then close it and give it back. The operation is carried out by the nurse efficiently and silently. As those little extortions we see, with so many people! Miss Gwilt has 2 very clever allies, in different parts of the story, but they don't have strong opponents (as in "No Name", also reviewed by me). Their fight is mainly against fate and Miss Gwilt tortured soul. This is an excellent book, but not so memorable as its 3 famous brothers ("The Woman in White", "No name" and "The Moonstone") as to re-read it. I'm planning to go over those 3 master pieces again, in the near future.

2 von 2 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. An Amazingly Good Read!

Von Lauryn Angel This novel is quite on par with *The Woman In White*, and I think I may even like this novel just a little bit more. I particularly like the fact that in this novel, Collins lets the villain tell a large portion of the story, making her a more sympathetic character than Count Fosco ever was. Throughout the novel, you know full-well that Lydia Gwilt is a wicked woman and that she is out to destroy Alan Armadale, but you can't help wishing her success. (The fact that Alan Armadale is a complete jerk doesn't hurt her case, either!) Of course, the Most Sympathetic Character Award doesn't go to Lydia; it goes to the ever-suffering Ozias Midwinter. From his birth, this poor guy never gets a chance to be happy, but you'll have to read the book yourself to find out why not. This book doesn't have the humorous, tension-easing characters of *The Moonstone* or *The Woman In White*, but, as you might expect from Wilkie Collins, this book is fast-paced, entertaining, and an amazingly good read!

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. somewhat far away

Von Darkenwood As this is from the 19th century it is to be expected that it should differ from modern literature. I enjoy the book thoroughly, and I truly love 19th century literature. That said I must admit to having some troubles with the story. I find the characters' priorities a bit hard to believe. Alan Armadale's are the one exception. For example Mr Brock's troubles of conscience about leaving Alan alone with Ozias. Alan is a man of 21, for God's sake, he'll live. And, on reading old Mr Armadale's confession of a brutal, jealous murder, what is Mr Brock's first concern? That his Ladyfriend once tricked her father into consenting to her marrying the man she loved. At the expense of a man she did not know and who had fallen in love with her portrait. Sensible girl, in my mind. This whole scheme of "lets get our kids married by two letters to the respective parents and two portraits" is ludicrous to say the least. So why risk her son's happiness and her own just because the wretched maid shows up and threatens to tell about the forged letter? It all seems to be blown out of proportion. Was 19 th century England really THAT hysteric? Other than that it's a hell of a story. Mystery, drama, adventure and some interesting women - it's all there. The suspense is good, the different perspectives are adding to the complexity of the plot and the language is perfect. It's a Wilkie Collins after all.

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**Pressestimmen** A gloriously dark tale of mixed identities and the irresistible, wicked Lydia Gwilt. Forget Dallas and Eastenders, this has to be the greatest of all soap operas. \* Steven Isserlis, *The Week*

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