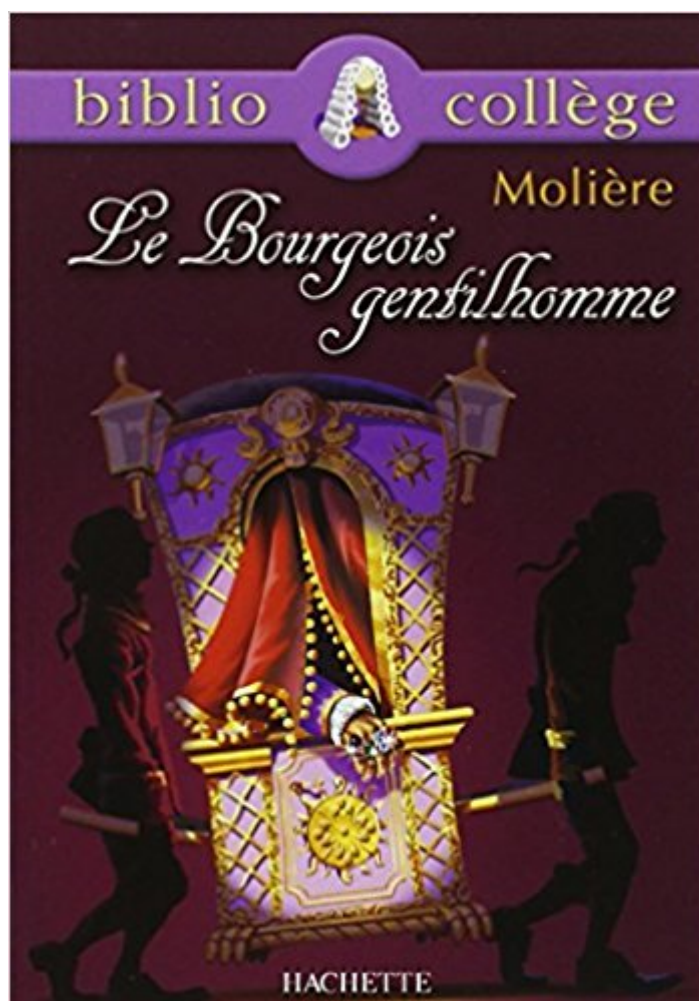


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# Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme (French Edition)



## Synopsis

A comedy of manners chronicling one man's farcical attempts to climb the social ladder --This text refers to an alternate Mass Market Paperback edition.

## Book Information

Mass Market Paperback

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## Customer Reviews

Originally published in 1883, and reprinted on numerous occasions, this Cambridge edition of Molière's classic comedy-ballet provides the original French text, together with an introduction written in English, and English summaries for each of the five acts. This will be of value to anyone with an interest in the French language and its literature. --This text refers to an alternate Mass Market Paperback edition.

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Molière was one of the three classic French playwrights, along with Racine and Corneille. His life covered the middle half of the 17th century, from 1622 to 1673. Patronage was important back then (as well as now!.. though nowadays it is called "networking" --). Molière scored big time, with the Sun King himself, Louis XIV. Molière's troupe became the King's official troupe, which helped protect Molière from serious problems as

he satirized various aspects of French society. (Being no dummy, he saw no problems with the glorious leadership of the monarchy). *Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme* is one of Molière's most famous plays. The Bourgeois Gentilhomme is Mr. Jourdain, with pretenses galore. He is a social climber, seeking the rarified air of nobility. He realizes that he must acquire various forms of learning, along with certain skills, to be accepted. He hires tutors to teach him the arts, music, dance, and dueling, all in an effort to achieve that elusive, and very thin veneer of respectability. In the process, he often makes a fool of himself, and is laughed at by his wife, and even by Nicole, the maid. In "society," Jourdain goes to great lengths to impress a marchioness, Dorimene. An impoverished nobleman, Dorante, sees Jourdain as an easy "mark" and keeps hitting him up for money, with promises of even bigger payoffs just over that next receding hill. Lucile is Jourdain's daughter, and he aspires to marry her into nobility, and she is not interested. The play concludes with Jourdain being tricked into authorizing her marriage to a Turkish "noble" who really isn't. The play was first produced in Chambord, in 1670, for Molière's patron. Many years later, it was the first French play that I had a part in, well, "sorta," in Villefranche sur mer, in a French "immersion" school in 1989. Admittedly, it was a very bit part, and only a small part of the play that us struggling French learners played. But I tucked it away that this play was selected as a quintessential French classic play, and I decided that one day I would read the entire play (now, finally done) as well as see it at the Comédie-Française in Paris, (not yet done) which would be along the lines of seeing *Hamlet* (Folger Library Shakespeare) at Stratford-upon-Avon. With a suitable companion, the people-watching might be as good as the play. It should be noted that despite the display of the title on the cover of this Kindle edition, the text is in ENGLISH, which I failed to note, but nonetheless read, despite one of my "vows" to read French writers only in French. The current description of the book on (USA) is incorrect, stating that it is in French. In the "product details" it is correctly identified as being in English. Overall, despite its "classic" label, I found the satire rather overdone and heavy-handed, and thus will rate it as 4-stars.

Attention, malgré le titre en français, cette édition est en anglais. This is an english version of a very well known, very funny play by Molière. He makes fun of M. Jourdain, a middle-age man who wants to rise above his class. It's classic comedy whose themes are still

modern, a few centuries later. Since I expected the text to be in its original French and did not read this edition, I can not comment further. I gave it five stars because really, you can't go wrong with Molière. Please pick it up and write your own comments !

Although this description says it contains the original French text, which was why I selected it, the book is entirely in English. Glad I did not pay for this misrepresentation. Disappointing.

Nothing makes me happy quite like free Kindle books. This book is no exception, especially when the author is Molière. Definitely a wonderful addition to my Kindle book collection.

Very enjoyable; sometimes I laughed out loud.

The comedy is of a very high quality. It is not the kind that makes you roll over in laughter but there is excellent flow in the story and you will be thoroughly amused. This IMO is one of Molière's greatest plays.

Disappointed as I did know it was a textbook (perhaps I did not look closely enough) however, it is in excellent condition, no scribbles on! Still happy about the purchase!

this book was exactly what I needed for my French class. All in French, and the supplemental materials were very helpful and easy to understand, as were the footnotes.

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