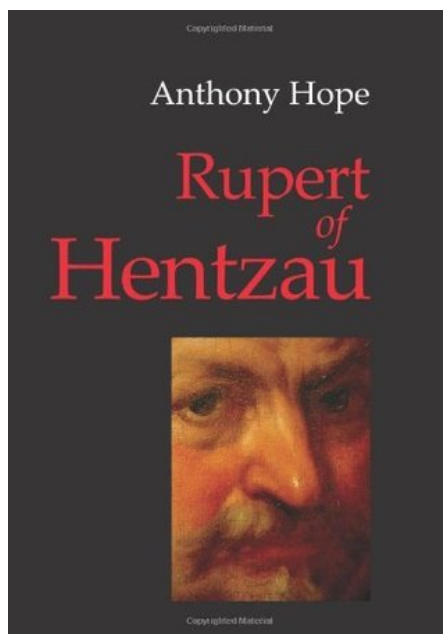




Rupert of Hentzau

Anthony Hope

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Rupert of Hentzau is the dark sequel to The Prisoner of Zenda. Full of humor and swashbuckling feats of heroism, the tale is also a satire on the politics of 19th-century Europe.

Rupert of Hentzau Details

Date : Published July 1st 2004 by Neeland Media LLC (first published 1898)

ISBN :

Author : Anthony Hope

Format : Kindle Edition 324 pages

Genre : Classics, Fiction, Adventure, Historical, Historical Fiction

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From Reader Review Rupert of Hentzau for online ebook

John says

Spoilers

The Prisoner of Zenda was one of my favorite novels in high school--really a novel that I obsessed over and read multiple times. After reading The Prisoner of Zenda, I immediately bought Rupert of Hentzau to revisit that fantastic world. However, when I reached college, I was advised by a trusted college friend, who had similarly loved The Prisoner of Zenda, that I should just leave Ruritania where it had been left at the end of that great novel. So, wary, I left Rupert on the shelf for a decade.

I read it, though, a couple of weeks ago. And I loved it, and I sort of thought that my friend was right, too.

First, the book was very well written. Immediately, it grabs you. The characters--with Rudolf's flare and adventuresomeness, Flavia's sad sincerity, Sapt's gruff loyalty and good humor, and Rupert's smarminess--are just as compelling as ever. The plot, too, is just about as urgent and tortuous (in a good way) as the first novel. Even with the long gap between my reading of the novels, I was immediately caught up in the story, with hopes that Flavia and Rudolf's happy ending would finally materialize. So, I thoroughly enjoyed reading through the novel, just about as much as I did The Prisoner of Zenda.

But then there was the ending. I cannot mark the novel down too much for the ending, because, in truth, it seems like the only way that things could turn out. It's also devastating, just as my friend had warned.

Rupert of Hentzau is an excellent novel that fans of The Prisoner of Zenda will likely enjoy. You should just be warned about it, too, though.

Fahmida Altaf says

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This is the sequel to the best book ever, also by Anthony Hope, "The Prisoner of Zenda".

I was able to find copies of both at an antique bookstore in London as they are out of print. But it was worth the search.

This one continues the story of Princess Flavia and her beloved Rudolf Rassendyll in the fictional European country of Ruritania. There are moments of comic genius, swashbuckling heroism and of course, romance.

The stories may be old, but the are freshly exciting each time I read them. Highly recommended!

When I started reading this sequel to *The Prisoner of Zenda*, I was not entirely sure I was going to enjoy it. However, as I progressed with it, I found myself caught up in the web and was spellbound as the tale unfolded. A swashbuckling story of high treason, intrigue, love and above all honour.

A brilliant sequel, perfectly consistent with the first book. Once again the last paragraphs are beautiful. A stirring, noble story.

PDF File: Rupert of Hentzau...
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I bought this book in Pembroke. This detail is almost irrelevant, except that Pembroke is one of my favourite towns in West Wales and has an extremely impressive castle. But it's not really like the castles of Ruritania, which are probably more Germanic looking.

I finished re-reading *The Prisoner of Zenda* almost a year ago to the day, and I adored it. I thought it was a tremendous swashbuckling adventure novel. It had great momentum and was a real page-turner for me. I have now finished re-reading the sequel, *Rupert of Hentzau*, and I adore it too, but not quite so much. It's a longer novel for a start and the pacing, although fast, isn't quite as breath-taking as the first book. Also the author, Anthony Hope, a very accomplished writer, chose a peculiar way of framing the narrative of this more complex novel.

A lot of the action is told from the point of view of a character not actually present during most of the described events, but who reconstructs them from what he afterwards learns. To add to the confusion, this character is sometimes present. The result is slightly strange and distancing, a mixture of reliable and possibly unreliable narrative, including a few scenes that are openly admitted to be pure speculation.

But on the whole it is an excellent read; an authentic swashbuckler. The villain, Rupert himself, is a magnificent character. Unlike so many novels of this type, it is the bad guy who is constantly on the back foot, outnumbered and having to rely on his (considerable) wits in order to survive his permanently precarious position. This aspect humanizes Rupert and makes him seem almost likeable; or if not likeable, than certainly admirable in some ways. The duel in which he must desperately fight for his life in a narrow attic is a superb set-piece.

I have stressed that this was a re-reading of the book. I first read both novels when I was about 15 but although I remembered parts of the first book, I remembered absolutely nothing about the sequel. It was as if I was reading it for the first time.

Ian says

A sequel that is not as good as the original: the plot is weaker and requires a lot of behind-the-scenes explanations and jumping around the timetable to keep the subplots together. The change in narrator also doesn't help, as Fritz is not present for a good part of the events in the book and it's not as interesting to read a second hand account of events compared to the 'memoirs' feeling of the first *Zenda*. This change in narrator is also a very bad foreshadowing of the disappointing finale in which (view spoiler). Just stop reading at the end of the first book and remember Ruritania as it was.

Terry says

2.5 – 3 stars

Rupert of Hentzau is an enjoyable swashbuckler, though I remember *The Prisoner of Zenda* being better. We rejoin the major players remaining from the first novel three years later when a new crisis threatens the queen's honour (she's not very bright, alas) and the dastardly rogue Rupert of Hentzau gets his hands on a letter written by her majesty to her former lover Rudolph Rassendyll. Of course Rudolph must speed to her rescue and once again take up his imposture of the King of Ruritania while that somewhat feckless cuckold is still on the throne and not, this time, safely tucked away in a prison.

There were a few twists in the plot that I didn't quite expect, though in retrospect I probably should have. As

I said, overall an enjoyable romp, but it had a few things I took issue with: 1) most of the convenient elements of the plot that occurred to increase tension were mainly due to the general stupidity of the heroes; I mean, there were times when even *they* knew what they should have done and they didn't do it anyway. 2) The majority of the characters are pills. The queen, as stated, is really not very bright and her constant swooning over events (and Rudolph) got a little tiresome, I really don't see why any of the men who were so devoted to her would have wasted their time given her personality. The ostensible narrator, Fritz von Tarlenheim, is almost as stupid, though not quite. Rassendyll, the ostensible hero of the piece, is a cipher, or more correctly an acquisition straight out of central casting for "stiff-necked noble hero". The only really interesting characters were, obviously, the villain of the piece Rupert of Hentzau, of whom there was far too little in the text even though his name is on the title, and good old pragmatic Colonel Sapt, apparently the only one of the heroes with a working brain in his head and of whom there was just enough.

Alright, all of that sounds so critical that you may be wondering how I could give this anything more than a rating of 2. Well, I am willing to give this one some leeway given the era in which it was written and the fact that it was merely going along with the expectations of the day. Also, it's a classic in the genre, so that bumps it up a bit too. Add to that the fact that Hope's prose is well-wrought and the fact that I didn't see the final twist in the plot until just before it occurred (though I really should have) and I think the rating just about squeaks in at 2.5-3 stars. This was another librivox recording and I was again lucky with the narrator, Andy Minter did a great job of it. All in all a fun swashbuckler.

Yoshinga says

I did enjoy certain aspect of this sequel to "Prisoner of Zenda", the plots, the overall story-telling. I think part of the story was told better than the first book. However, I am not certain why the author chose the voice of Fritz as the narrator of the story. Fritz was not present in many of the key scenes which make the narration awkward.

And above all, I was disappointed at the ending. Ahh well. I still like Anthony Hope very much.

Derek says

The tone shifts from The Prisoner of Zenda: gone is the optimistic energy and spirit of adventure, thanks to the lackluster narration of Fritz and to the story revolving around a defensive action on the part of the protagonists. Unlike its predecessor, this is not so much about doing something (madcap plan to impersonate and rescue the king) as about preventing something (madcap non-plan to prevent a compromising letter from arriving). And all of it not to avert war or save a life, but to protect the honor of a woman who, let's be honest, is neither dynamic nor interesting.

The story really lights up when the stylishly villainous Rupert of Hentzau himself blusters onstage, and the one scene between him and Rudolf is magic.

Rick Davis says

A major theme that runs through much of great literature is the conflict between Duty and Love. In "The

Aeneid", Virgil has Aeneas choose duty over love. This conclusion was the majority opinion throughout Western history up until the time of the Romantics, who elevated Love above Duty. In a particularly Christian twist on the question ", Dante' "Divine Comedy shows that Duty and Love can both be honored and fulfilled.

In the "Prisoner of Zenda", Anthony Hope danced a bit around this question in the midst of his ripping adventure yarn, and, like a good subject of the British Empire, gave the Roman answer to the question: Duty Wins. In "Rupert of Hentzau" Hope revisits the question, ramps up the moral dilemma, increases tension to the breaking point and finally... comes up with...the BIGGEST COP OUT OF ALL TIME. It's a shame really since the first book was so good.

Bettie? says

4 Extra Debut. Queen Flavia writes a fateful letter to her true love Rudolf Rassendyll. Sequel to The Prisoner of Zenda. Stars Julian Glover.

Ruritanian Romance.

This would make no sense at all if you haven't got The Prisoner of Zenda under your belt.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b01qqsw3>

K. says

This is the sequel to "The Prisoner of Zenda." It had the same excellent, witty, quick-paced style I loved from the first. I really loved the narrator from the first one better, the second is a little drier--but it was part of the story and it was great.

Followed the first with the themes of loyalty, duty and honor. Rudolf has a really hard choice to make in this one, and although he doesn't actually get to "make" it, you know by the description of his demeanor at the end that he'd made the right one.

Again, this message is so needed and so refreshing in an adventure book. Sometimes we have to choose between what's right and what we want. And we don't always get what we want, but we can honorably get on with life anyway.

Sam says

A continuation of story and theme from the adventure/romance novel The Prisoner of Zenda. I am desperate for a film that takes these two stories as a springboard for a stirring adventure exploring the ideas of honor, gentlemanliness, and duty in the face of temptation. There are some great characters here, and though there are countless homages to this story in others, an adaptation of the the story itself hasn't been done in a long while.

