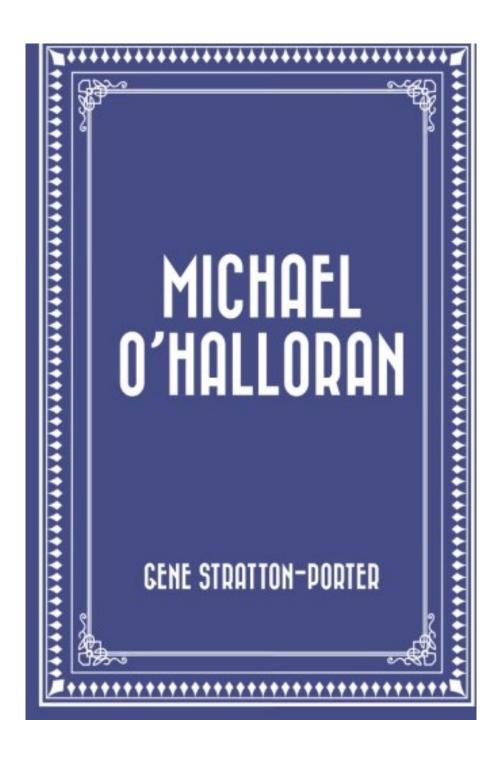


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From Library Journal

Originally published in the early 1900s, this volume tells the story of the title character, a plucky orphan growing up in a Midwestern metropolis. O'Halloran's existence is dismal until he meets another orphaned child, and together they try to make a life for themselves. A little hokey, but stick with it. Copyright 1997 Reed Business Information, Inc.

From the Back Cover

Jimmy turned to step from the gutter to the sidewalk. Two things happened to him simultaneously: Mickey became a projectile and smashed with the force of a wiry fist on the larger boy's head, while above both, an athletic arm was thrust out, and gripped him by the collar.

About the Author

Gene Stratton-Porter (1863--1924) was born on a farm in Indiana. She later lived in a cabin adjoining the Limberlost Swamp, immortalized in her best-selling A Girl of the Limberlost. In 1923 she moved to California for her health, but was killed in an automobile accident in 1924. Other Stratton-Porter novels reissued by Indiana University Press include Freckles, Laddie, The Harvester, and The Keeper of the Bees.

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Gene Stratton-Porter was one of the most influential women in America at the turn of the 20th century. A popular author and movie studio head, Stratton-Porter's work was read by tens of millions across the nation, and works like A Girl of the Limberlost were adapted into screenplays several times.

Published on: 2016-01-29Original language: English

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• Binding: Paperback

• 272 pages

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Most helpful customer reviews

32 of 32 people found the following review helpful.

A charming fable of American life in the 'teens

By Mike Halloran

Because of my name, many have asked me over the years if I was familiar with Gene Stratton-Porter's book, "Michael O'Halloran". As a boy, I was given a copy containing the pen and ink drawings and stills from the "photoplay" and have treasured it since (I do not know if modern editions contain either set of illustrations). Re-reading it as an adult, I am still charmed by this tale of an orphaned newspaper seller who asks nothing of the world except to "be square". It is easy to overlook major holes in the plot (for example, we never do know what is wrong with Peaches other than she is sick and can't walk), when we are presented with such a vivid description of American life in 1914 - even if some of the city scenes don't quite ring true. Though the characters suffer many hardships, the overall tone is so upbeat that it's easy to see why this book outsold "Pollyanna" in 1916. Stratton-Porter's skill as a naturalist make the country scenes especially vibrant. Her ear for dialog is unsurpassed showing the reader that, if life in America wasn't like this, it should have been.

Having read this book, I am ready to believe that children and adults did speak this nicely to each other once upon a time. You, too, will wonder if the world wouldn't be a lot better off if everyone could just "be square".

17 of 17 people found the following review helpful.

One of Gene's best stories!

By S.M. Johnson

I've read most of Ms.Stratton-Porter's books and this is one I've been wanting to read for months but wasn't available on Kindle until recently. She also wrote "Girl of the Limberlost". Most of her stories center on a nature setting as she was known as a botanist of sorts in her day and used her knowledge of that to write stories. This book is about a 10 yr. old boy making it on his own by following closely by his mother's instructions: stay away from booze, no stealing, giving an honest day's work for pay, keeping clean and saying his prayers. He does well for himself managing to steer clear of the dreaded orphanage home and being an industrious news boy. His good nature draws people to want to help him and he in turn has a courageous heart and rescues a small girl left to herself after her grandmother dies. All's well that ends well. This book doesn't have a hint of racial bias in it as other GSP books have. It's a wonderful book for children to read.

14 of 14 people found the following review helpful.

A charming fable of life in the 'teens

By Mike Halloran

Because of my name, many have asked me over the years if I was familiar with Gene Stratton-Porter's book, "Michael O'Halloran". As a boy, I was given a copy containing photo stills from the movie and have treasured it since. Re-reading it as an adult, I am still charmed by this tale of a young newspaper seller who asks the world to "be square". It is easy to overlook major holes in the plot (for example, we never do know what is wrong with Peaches other than she is sick and can't walk) when we are presented with such a vivid description of American life in 1914 - even if some of the city scenes don't quite ring true. Through many hardships, the tone is so upbeat that it's easy to see why this book outsold "Pollyanna" in 1916. Stratton-Porter's skill as a naturalist make the country scenes especially vibrant. Her ear for dialog is unsurpassed showing the reader that, if life in America wasn't like this, it should have been. Having read this book, I am ready to believe that children and adults did speak this nicely to each other once upon a time. You, too, will wonder if the world wouldn't be a lot better off if everyone could just "be square".

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