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*Vicente Blasco Ibanez, W A. Gillespie*  
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**Vicente Blasco Ibanez, W A. Gillespie : Blood and Sand: A Novel** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Blood and Sand: A Novel:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Not at all like the movieBy Victoria F CookeNot at all like the movie, but the most graphic discription of the bull fight, the bullfighter and the Spanish world of bullfighting. The merciless tormenting of the bulls, the horrible use of the horses and picadores leaves nothing to the imagination. Ibanez knew the workings of the ring and the circus (his word) so beloved by the Spanish. Being a Spaniard myself, reading the backstage workings made me join the growing number of people in Spain that are working on outlawing the sport. An incredible book.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The " Return"By Strawgold"Blood and Sand" was one of the books I read as a young girl - recently, I have been on a kick of revisiting that time of my early literary life; re-enjoying many of them with a newly found appreciation. Some of them have amazed me with the knowledge of what I didn't get out of them at the time but should have; some were as I remembered; some much better under the microscope of time and maturity; but virtually all have given me to realize just how much we owe the authors of our books, the writers of our songs, the resulting films that give visual life. The old version of the movie with Tyrone Power is an excellent choice of a viewing experience."Blood and Sand" is a tale splendidly woven as a Spanish tapestry - around many native subjects and how one thing affects another. Poverty; insecurity that "spawns" and subsequently grimly "receives" adoration, either real and/or misplaced; loyalty, deceit, infidelity, struggle. You glimpse intimately the inconsistency of emotion dwelling within the character of a man brave enough to face death before a crowd in the afternoon, but who crumbles into superstitious fear at the sight of a serpent's picture in a book or of an old one-eyed woman scrubbing a floor immediately before another of his arena events. He cannot read or write, yet he possesses a library full of elegantly bound volumes he has never opened the covers of - and would not understand even if he did since his non-existent education has limited everything about him except his courage and agility. He is momentarily powerful enough to win a beautiful woman as a trophy; yet he knows he cannot keep her interest for long due to the fundamental differences between them that can never be bridged; still, he is willing to sacrifice his good wife and family for her in the meantime should it come to that in order to prolong the fantasy. His is the world of physical strength which will be enough - until it fails him. Perhaps even more poignant is the underlying message thread regarding the sport of the bull fight itself, delivered without malice, without judgment, but nonetheless without approval.It takes you from the simple countryside to the sophisticated city of Madrid and all of it's "less-than-savory" elements; it takes you back again. You feel the "pull of the tides" that the matador felt between the two worlds he lives in - the one that gives him safety and love, the other of the money, the ego stroking, the danger, the ruthless competition that ultimately destroys them all since it is a life that cannot be sustained.This book is an excellent choice

for a read and deserves every accolade attributed to it, including my own tardy acknowledgment of Mr. Ibanez's timeless talent. Ole! 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Magnificent! By Ali "Blood Sand" by Vicente Blasco Ibanez, is quite possibly the best book I have ever read. It is in every way, a masterpiece. Although written in 1909, the writing is so sharp, so modern that it could have been written a few years ago. This is a timeless, sweeping tale of the kind of heroes that we don't see so much of these days. And no matter your personal opinion on the subject of bullfighting, you will be drawn into the world and the sufferings of Juan Gallardo, Madrid's most prominent Matador. This iconic book is bursting at the seams with romance, passion, adventure, and violence. There is something here for every reader. For those interested in the subject of Spanish bullfighting, I believe "Blood Sand" to be the absolute best, and most insightful book on the subject. Orson Welles has said this, and I agree with the man! As far as the writing style goes, I can only describe it as 'poetic.' There are passages in this novel that took me out of this World and put me firmly in the Madrid of the early 1900's. I swear i could almost smell the blood of the maimed horses and bulls, and feel my heart rate increase as Gallardo continually puts his fate in the hands of the charging bull. Reading it gives me the same thrill that I got from reading adventure stories as a little kid. It is that good. There have been no less than 3 film versions of this book. The original 1920's version with Rudolph Valentino as Juan Gallardo, is my personal favorite. Anyway I recommend to all fans of classic adventure tales, or just fans of classic literature, to search for this book and enjoy this towering literary achievement.

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Language NotesText: English, Spanish (translation)

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