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# La Gloire De Mon Pere (Souvenirs D'enfance)



## Synopsis

Book by Pagnol

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Book by Pagnol

Book arrived exactly as described - within 4 days of ordering, and in good condition, just used enough to show that the book has had a previous owner. The book is therefore slightly annotated (certain vocabulary words identified off to the side, certain interesting passages marked off), but to me this doesn't matter as long as the book is well intact. For me, this means the book is loved. And what a lovely story it is.

Such a glorious book, a great story of childhood memories taking place in Provence. Dreamy, idealistic, but simply sweet and beautiful, written in prose by an esteemed writer and Professor. The ultimate homage to a Father from his Son.

A French Classic that all French students should read!!!! It captures the true spirit of the French. Watch the movie too

If you want to know what life in the south of France is like, read this book. A delight!

I discovered Marcel Pagnol during the time when I was learning French and I was instantly charmed by how accessible yet subtle his writing is. Most literature in any language requires a deep understanding of the culture and slang; Pagnol, conversely, is a gift for anyone who has mastered intermediate French (in other words, you know enough never to have problems in day-to-day life but you'd be struggling through the pages of Balzac or Daudet). His prose is not only clear but beautiful and powerfully evocative. The reader will quickly find his/her own favorites; one of mine is the short but marvellous moment when the young Marcel recovers the birds his father has (astonishingly) shot and holds them, emblematic of the glory of his adored father, up high to the golden light of the setting sun. The scene is so powerful not only because Pagnol times the intensity of emotional release so that it coincides with the very last word of the chapter, but also because the rhythm and meter of the words perfectly convey the exultation of the young boy in that moment. Too often writers throw words at the page without enough thought as to how they resonate. Perhaps only Faulkner and Hemingway in American literature, and Thomas and Durrell in English literature, have been equally skilled as Pagnol in welding sound to meaning so successfully. Pagnol writes with restrained humor and thankfully avoids the crude condescension of Dickens even when dealing with unsympathetic characters. One finishes the two books of his childhood autobiography feeling hopeful about the world, feeling refreshed and charmed. There is no avoidance of reality, but neither is there an abandonment of wonder and joy. A small boy's world is faithfully reproduced so that we see it through two views simultaneously: the child's view as was, and the adult's view as is. It's a difficult trick to pull off yet Pagnol does it effortlessly and never once does he stumble. His writing is deceptive, for it seems so simple and easy; yet the book is essentially a technical tour-de-force as well as marvellous evocation of a lost world. In short, this is a must-have for anyone who can read French and who isn't dead. It's also cheaper to buy via .fr than through the US site, even with the additional cost of international shipping.

*La Gloire de mon Pere* opens the series *Souvenirs d'Enfance* by Marcel Pagnol. The author recollects his childhood in the city and his summer holidays in the heart of Provence. He introduces us to his family: his father he admires so much, his mother he would like to protect, his aunt who is still a spinster, Paul his little brother,... This book is very easy to read because Marcel Pagnol aims at reflecting the thoughts of a 10 year old boy. Anyone who has ever been in Provence will hear the 'cigales', smell the 'thym'. Whereas *A year in Provence* by Peter Mayle pictures the vision an adult has of Provence, this refreshing book takes you into a 10 year old boy's world where any event

takes a particular importance ! I read this book when I was a kid but now that I am far from France, I read it again and I was no longer in Minneapolis but I was following Marcel over the hills of Provence.

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