

Chapter 1 : La Regenta Characters - blog.quintoapp.com

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Alas completed his undergraduate law degree at the University of Oviedo in 1867, then earned a Doctorate in Jurisprudence from the University of Madrid and became a professor in Roman Law at his hometown University of Oviedo in 1870. The position made it possible for him to marry and to begin writing his most important works. In his own day he was less well known for the two novels he also managed to write: *The former* now ranks among the finest realist novels of nineteenth-century Spain. He died before his fiftieth birthday, June 13, 1898, a sad and largely forgotten figure, unaware of the impact his one novel would have on Spanish letters a century after his passing. Events in History at the Time of the Novel The politics of a hereditary monarchy Whenever a king dies in a hereditary monarchy, his first-born offspring automatically inherits the throne. In Spain, as elsewhere in Europe, the normal order of things also dictated that the firstborn male child—*not* the female—customarily became king. In fact, the Salic Law, instituted in 1066 under the Bourbon king Felipe V, forbade the ascension of a woman to the throne in Spain unless there were no eligible male heirs. Because the law did not have to be invoked for many years, it was largely forgotten. In the minds of many jurists, a more equitable rule of succession already existed dating from the time of King Alfonso the Wise. As Fernando VII lay dying in September of 1808, he was persuaded to declare the earlier Law of Partidas as the only legitimate mandate, thereby paving the way for his three-year-old daughter Isabel to inherit the crown upon reaching maturity. Called the Carlist Wars, the three conflicts lasted half a century and ended with the defeat of his supporters—the pretenders to the throne—several years after the death of Carlos himself. By the beginning of the third Carlist War in 1846, his grandson, Carlos Maria, would have been king. Isabel and Francisco finally separated in May of 1847 while in exile in France. By 1848 labor unions had begun to exert a degree of force in society, the Catholic Church had extracted a settlement for the expropriation of their lands and buildings whereby priests and other church officials became part of the government payroll, and the overseas colonies, feeling the loosening of political dominance by Spain, were beginning to rebel. The crises became so constant and so severe that Isabel was finally deposed, peacefully, while summer vacationing on the northern coast. Unfazed, she simply went into exile in Paris until 1848, leaving Spain in the hands of a provisional government. Formed by a parliament and several military factions, this coalition issued a new constitution and eventually paved the way for a return to monarchical rule. Though their lineage was in no way connected to the Spanish monarchy, General Juan Prim, who headed the government at the time, persuaded the constitutional Parliament to ratify his wish to bring new blood to the throne. This was done by a slim vote margin on November 16, 1845. The rule of this imported monarch lasted scarcely three years—from January 2, 1845, until February 11, 1848. Left alone after his main supporter and prime minister, General Prim, was assassinated and despite his kind and agreeable nature, the new king failed to consolidate any power base from which to operate. What followed was a short period of anarchy during which the Carlists intensified the third of their campaigns for the throne beginning December 1845, and other political and military groups vied for power. This political maneuvering, known as the *turno pacífico*, worked quite well, since each party was assured a turn in power. The Bourbon Restoration As a preparatory move, the young Alfonso became a cadet at the British military academy of Sandhurst to learn not only the art of war but also the ways of governing, to develop an understanding of how a constitutional monarchy should run, and to meet other dynastic scions likely to become his peers in the capitals of Europe. A few weeks later, on December 29, a military uprising in favor of Alfonso proclaimed him king. His mother Isabel had long ago reconciled herself to renouncing the throne on his behalf. After the sudden death of his first wife and cousin Mercedes of Orleans, Alfonso married a Habsburg princess. He proved to be a conciliatory ruler, one interested in serving as king for all his subjects, regardless of their past loyalties. The well-liked monarch traveled widely throughout Spain and abroad, especially in France and Germany, though his health was weak and living conditions were, at best,

unpredictable throughout Europe. Early in his reign, Alfonso contracted tuberculosis, an incurable disease at that time and one that he kept secret from everyone outside the palace circle. His own death would soon follow. That autumn, on November 26, , unable to withstand the rigors of the Castilian climate, he succumbed to tuberculosis at the age of . The birth insured an uninterrupted succession: Social progress in nineteenth-century Spain Despite the political intrigues and their ensuing turmoil, industrial advancements found their way into Spain and slowly helped to modernize what was then one of the most backward countries in Western Europe. Progress came haltingly in a two-steps-forward, one-step-backward fashion. In , for example, after centuries of persecutions and public burnings, the Inquisition the tribunal to suppress deviation from the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church was formally dissolved. Its dissolution was followed by the creation of the Civil Guard in , which inspired the same fears and engendered even greater abuses. Yet the general population also experienced improvements in life. Most Spaniards came to enjoy the economic, health, and safety benefits of such innovations as the use of steam power in factories in Barcelona in and the public lighting of streets in large cities in the s. This, in turn, promoted longer hours of commerce, stricter building codes, paved streets, the addition of sidewalks to separate traffic from pedestrians, and enough prosperity to warrant new storefronts with large windows to showcase merchandise. The July adoption of a uniform chart of weights and measures , based on the decimal system , further aided commerce and consumer confidence. The following year, the first postage stamp was issued, promoting long distance communication over land. In a faster means of bridging distances, the telegraph system began operating as a regular service. Foreign business was further aided by the passage in of a fairly comprehensive set of trade laws that encouraged the exportation of great quantities of minerals and other goods. Of course, established factions of society ardently resisted change. Against their ruling status we begin to notice the growing economic forces of a the nouveaux richesâ€”individuals who make their money in business and commerce, b the returning emigrants who have accumulated wealth abroad in the colonies and now seek preeminence, and finally c the very large, menacing masses of salaried factory workers ready to strike and hold protests as a means of gaining higher wages, better working conditions and a more equitable distribution of capital. Examples of the three groups are sprinkled throughout *La Regenta*. The elite, as might be expected, resisted the elevation of average citizens that had been experienced in nearby France since the French Revolution there. As a dandy, his clothes, his impeccable shirt-fronts, his cologne, his mannerisms of speech and his tastes in cheap popular literature are all imported from Paris, a city he knows only superficially. The minor aristocracy and landed gentry, however, preferred to live in the provinces. There the less powerful or wealthy families saw their resources diminish with each passing generation. Titles, such as count or marquis, meant only past glories but present financial ruin unless marriages of convenience could be arranged so that new money could be added to an impoverished lineage. Giner was a follower of the German idealist philosophersâ€”mainly Karl Krause, His importance lies in assembling a small group of like-minded educators, whose teachings shaped the lives and writings of men such as the author of *La Regenta* and every generation of intellectuals in the last third of the nineteenth century. They also championed a host of principles that would liberate students from the dogmatism and stagnation long prevalent in Spain. Their places outside of marriage were the convent, the brothel, the agricultural field, or domestic service. With the onset of urban commerce, they slowly made their way into the workaday world as lowly clerks in fabric concerns, groceries, and flower shops, where they catered to other, more well-to-do women. In all cases, such working women would be supervised by male managers or owners. Few of them engaged in meaningful intellectual pursuits since, as of , only 9 percent of all women could read. That he, Don Victor, is older does not much matter to either of them. In the end, however, the thirty-some-year age difference between Ana and the judge, with all of its attendant implications differences in tastes, habits, and sexual and other needs , dooms them.

Chapter 2 : A Common Reader: His Only Son by Leopoldo Alas

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Chapter 3 : Yale Educational Travel

Leopoldo Alas (1852-1902), Spanish novelist, short-story writer, and literary critic who wrote under the pseudonym Clarín, blog.quintoapp.com Although he began his literary career as a journalist, he later was a professor of law at the Univ. of Oviedo.

Chapter 4 : "Picturing "La Regenta": A spiral into decadence" by Carol Anne Tinkham

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Chapter 5 : Noel Valis - Wikipedia

Alas, Leopoldo [key], Spanish novelist, short-story writer, and literary critic who wrote under the pseudonym Clarín, b. Zamora. Although he began his literary career as a journalist, he later was a professor of law at the Univ. of Oviedo. He is best known for.

Chapter 6 : Project MUSE - Between Agency and Determinism: A Critical Review of Clarín Studies

Alas, Leopoldo, Spanish novelist, short-story writer, and literary critic who wrote under the pseudonym Clarín, b. Zamora. Zamora. Although he began his literary career as a journalist, he later was a professor of law at the Univ. of Oviedo.

Chapter 7 : La Regenta (The Judge's Wife) | blog.quintoapp.com

The Decadent Vision in Leopoldo Alas. A Study of "La Regenta" and "Su único hijo.

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La Regenta (The Judge's Wife) by Leopoldo Alas ("Clarín") THE LITERARY WORK A novel set in Vetusta (fictionalized version of Oviedo), a provincial town in northern Spain in ; published in Spanish (as *La Regenta*) in , in English in SYNOPSIS Ana, a beautiful young woman, is coerced by her two aunts into marrying an old.

Chapter 9 : Noel Maureen Valis (Author of Teaching Representations of the Spanish Civil War)

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