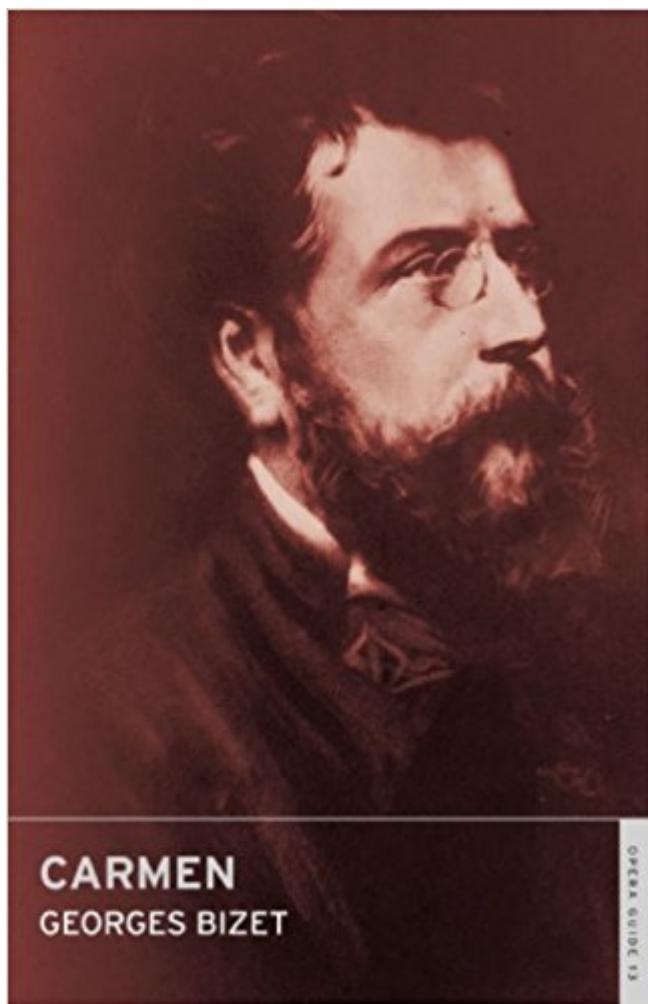


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# Carmen: English National Opera Guide 13 (Opera Guides)



## Synopsis

English National Opera Guides are ideal companions to the opera. They provide stimulating introductory articles together with the complete text of each opera in English and the original. Bizet describes himself as 'pagan' and Carmen has a savage Mediterranean beauty quite unique in music. The essays included in this Guide suggest some reasons for its legendary theatrical appeal. Martin Cooper describes the traditional mixture of spoken words and song that stimulated Bizet to exclaim 'I want to revolutionise opera-comique!': the translators show the ingenious and inspired ways in which he set about it. Lesley Wright analyses the score and Michael Rabaud shows the uncanny appropriateness of Nietzsche's support for Bizet in his famous attacks on the decadence of Wagner. This is the first time that the complete text of the verses that Bizet set to music and the full dialogue (much of it especially translated for this Opera Guide), have ever been published.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

“Brilliantly produced and superb value.” The Sunday Times "All these will provide the new opera-goer with food for thought." Daily Telegraph "Wholehearted recommendation of this valuable new series." TLS

Georges Bizet (1838 - 1875) was a French composer and pianist of the Romantic era, best known for the opera Carmen.

Having never seen the opera Carmen, but recently having occasion to hear the Habanera played by the LA Phil, I was curious to know more about Bizet's work, only to find that it was based on the novella Carmen by Prosper Merimee. Well, that certainly intrigued my interest more than the opera, and I promptly downloaded a copy of the Kindle version. It was a mesmerizing read; first, because it introduced me to the Romani people, of which I had scant knowledge except for the occasional unflattering portrayal of gypsies in movies, and second, because the novella is a fascinating study of raw human emotions and passion in a place and time from removed from the trappings of our modern society. One almost longs to live in such an era among such people, but by the end of the story, one is very glad not to.

I love this story. I've watched the opera, the musical, the Spanish film, and mtv version. I also borrowed this book from my local library about two years ago read it and was planning to rent it again. But between then and now they sold all there old books. I'm glad I decided to purchase this book for myself after all it is one of my favorite stories. Would recommend this book for anyone whose looking for a quick read and a pretty decent story line.

The original text was french but the tale is in Spain. There are a lot of words without translation but sometimes the same character explain the meaning. In pos 297 "I call myself Don, because I have a right to it, and if I were at Elizondo I could show you my parchment genealogy" Some other words without translation in this edition you have an explication like the word "Veintiquatro" the editor said that it refer to a Magistrate in charge of the municipal police arrangements, and local government regulations. I find this edition could help to understand some gipsy and spanish old costumes. I recommend this book and this edition when you want to read classics books.

I got interested in reading Carmen from playing a slot game of the same name. I have now read Karanina for the same reason. One doesn't always know what will inspire a search for a great story. Kindle has provided the inspiration.

My husband ordered this on here for me, for Christmas. It arrived on Christmas Eve in time for him to wrap it and put it under the tree!! This is my favorite book and I recommend it to everyone I talk to!!

Surprisingly, for as many years as I have loved Bizet's CARMEN, I had never read the novella until I began researching for a current writing project. It was a fascinating read partly because of my research, but also for the depth of the novella itself. It was interesting to realize some of the choices Bizet made when adapting the book for his opera.

Carmen is my favorite opera, but Prospero Mérimée's novella really came as a surprise for me, because the story is told by Don José, a soldier who fell in love with the sensual and wild Carmen. Everybody knows how the two met and that their relationship had many ups and downs until the tragic end; but the story is page-turning and even more fascinating than the opera. In the last chapter, there is some information about the gypsies, because the French author studied about this nomad population; therefore he shares his knowledge with his readers: gypsy costumes, Romani terms are explained (throughout the novella), their beliefs, marriage, witchcraft etc.

Read this and all John Bemont's books as a teen, this one was my favorite. The women of the waltz hovering home, former prostitutes who were given new life in Christ :)

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