



The Green and the Red

Armand Chauvel, Elisabeth Lyman (Translator)

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Léa is the idealistic owner and chef of La Dame Verte, a vegetarian restaurant struggling in a small French town in Brittany. Mathieu is the carnivorous marketing director of the town's biggest pork producer, which is trying to put Léa out of business to take over the restaurant's prime real estate.

When Léa and Mathieu first cross paths, it is under false pretenses—Mathieu is posing as a vegetarian, infiltrating the local animal rights community for information that will force Léa's restaurant toward a swifter demise. And while Léa suspects that Mathieu isn't all that he appears to be, she has no idea how deep his culinary deception goes. Neither of them can deny the attraction they feel for each other, and it seems as though they might be setting a table for two ... until Léa learns the truth.

The Green and the Red Details

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From Reader Review The Green and the Red for online ebook

Suzanne says

Worst book I've read in years, if not ever. Only reason I finished it was because it was short and it was my book club's selection. Boring, too simple, and weak characters. Full of food cliches.

Fabyen says

It's a very interesting combination of entertainment and insightfulness. Armand Chauvel manages to speak up for deep values meanwhile never loses his sense of humour. I would even consider this novel groundbreaking as this must be one of the first fictions written in French that defends or promotes the veggie lifestyle. And all this in the form of a charming and funny love story.

Clair says

A short, entertaining Sunday read.

Dynise says

A delightfully funny, entertaining read into which more poignant messages about animal rights & the environment are gently & deftly interwoven. I think TG&TR would make a fabulous rom-com film; I found myself LOL-ing several times as Chauvel poked fun equally and eloquently at obnoxious vegheads & uninformed omnivores alike. This novel will challenge your notion of tolerance and stereotypes -- about both humans & animals-- wherever you may fall in that spectrum.

Sally Bennett says

As an ethical vegan, it's no surprise that I found the omnivores in this book to be disgusting and narcissistic. The vegetarians in the book displayed varying degrees of tolerance with their own diet choices as well as those of the omnivores. The author does a good job of covering the various stereotypes from each viewpoint, as well as enlightening the reader on some little-known truths of what's really in our food.

It's written as a comedy, a romantic one, and really fast-forwards in that aspect! Considering that diet and lifestyle are topics that normally arouse the pride and ire of everyone one way or the other, the author has done a good job of making us laugh at ourselves. It's an easy book to read and should leave you satisfied at its conclusion.

Sherry says

Just finished reading *The Green and the Red*, a charming Eco lit novel about a vegetarian chef and owner of a struggling vegetarian restaurant and a carnivorous marketing director of the town's biggest pork producer. Animal rights, ethical consumerism, romance, and a touch of humor combine to make this novel an entertaining and enlightening read.

Juliet says

You don't have to be a vegetarian to enjoy *The Green and the Red*. Anyone who is concerned by environmental issues, animal welfare and compassion in farming will find food for thought in this charming novel which exposes the excesses of both extremes of the dietary spectrum. In addition to this, it is quite simply a delightful and refreshing read.

Peacegal says

3.5 stars-- I never thought I'd rate a romance novel so highly, but this book was truly enjoyable, and thankfully, was more than just a love story.

The only thing that disappointed me about *THE GREEN AND THE RED* was that at one point, the staunchly vegetarian restaurant owner breaks her commitment to sample foie gras, of all things, to make sure that her "faux gras" is a proper replica of the bird-based stuff. This is completely out of character, and doesn't make any sense in the story, especially when one considers that foie gras is one of the most torturous foods to produce. Why couldn't Lea have just tested her faux gras creation upon an omnivorous foie gras fan (certainly not a difficult thing to find in France)? It makes no sense.

Anyway, this book did make me curious about trying vegan "faux gras," and trying more vegan French cooking.

Jocelyn says

Three and a half stars. A light and entertaining novella, with an informative undercurrent. I liked the subtle humour but felt the characterization left something to be desired. Lovely descriptions of delicious vegetarian dishes, made me almost wish the author had included some recipes.

Ginny says

A novel about a vegetarian and her clashes with a meat eater.

Noelle says

I read this for the VSDC book club. Cute idea, but this little novel was extremely corny and predictable. The motive to get readers to go veg is not veiled in any artistic way, but repeatedly hits you over the head. For something similar, but better written, check out the memoir 'Eating Animals' by Jonathan Safran Foer.

Aly Abell says

Once I started reading *The Green and the Red* by Armand Chauvel, I couldn't stop. I ended up finishing it the same day I started! From the description I was expecting it might be very aggressive about the message of the benefits of vegetarian eating. There is no question of where the author stands on the subject of vegetarianism, but the story is told in a funny and sweet narrative, with sharp barbs directed at both the vegetarians and meat-eaters.

In places the language comes across as a bit stilted. Although the French version is no longer available for comparison, the translation overall appears excellent. But perhaps in some cases a word has a different nuance in French versus English, which affects its sense in a novel. Consider for example the phrase "his regular instincts had to admit they were titillated when she crossed and uncrossed her legs à la Sharon Stone." In conversational American English, a phrase such as turned on would seem much more natural than titillated. In other scenes, characters expound on the Omega 3 content of flax seeds and the health virtues of milk in ways that don't seem very likely in real conversations from these characters.

This romantic comedy about a vegetarian restaurant owner and her nemesis in the pork industry will appeal not just to vegetarians but to anyone who enjoys a witty story. If you are an omnivore, the book may not convert you into a vegetarian, but it will make you think twice before adding that side of bacon.

I was delighted to receive the book through Goodreads First Reads.

Melissa says

Je l'a lu rapidement. C'est assez prenant, on apprends quelques trucs intéressants notamment des chiffres sur la consommation etc

En tant que végétarienne et folle de cuisine, ce livre m'a dans l'ensemble beaucoup plus malgré quelques clichés mais c'est une bonne lecture que je recommande!

Virginia Fox says

The Green & the Red is a great primer for people who are discovering a new approach to healthy dietary choices, which will ultimately lead to a better planet for us all!

This is a serious subject that was tackled very well by Armand Chauvel, in the sense that he was able to highlight the main stereotypes and cultural habits between vegetarians and carnivores in a light and humorous way, which was not lost in the superbly crafted translation by Elisabeth Lyman.

It is a pleasant and easy read. The type of book that you won't be able to put down until you reach the last page and with the holidays fast approaching, this book would make a perfect stocking stuffer for anyone who cares about our environment, health and ethical issues.

Shel says

The world needs more romantic comedies and more books with vegetarian protagonists this novel responds delightfully. Add this to your summer reading list for the beach, plane or train. It's a fun, quick read. And set in the small French town of Rennes, it's perfect for the literary traveler.

Written in a cinematic style, it's reminiscent of the Tom Hanks and Meg Ryan movie *You've Got Mail* — an unlikely romance between a small business owner and the corporate executive trying to put her out of business. Nedelec Pork aims to oust Léa Rystel's struggling vegetarian restaurant La Dame Verte and replace it with a pork museum. Léa's love interest: Mathieu, the pork marketer, whose main interests are eating meat and moving up in the Nedelec family business even if it means sleeping with the boss' daughter.

While maintaining a light-hearted touch, the novel engages in dialogues about vegetarianism and reveals the cons of meat-eating in terms of environment, health (one of the characters is a prominent gasteroenterologist), and cruelty. As the romantic tension and farce mounts, dramatic scenes takes place at a Veggie Pride celebration, a vegetarian foie gras tasting, a slaughterhouse, and the site of an environmental tragedy (the boss' daughter is attacked by killer seaweed) — and they're funny. Quite a trick!

The tension escalates and the fun continues to the end. The book says a lot about the ethics of pigs versus pork, but leaves the reader smiling.

It's tempting to imagine *The Green and the Red* on the big screen with a cast of vegetarian and vegan actors (Anna Paquin as Léa? Woody Harrelson as Mathieu?), with lots of cameos by famous vegans (Gene Baur, Caldwell Esselsytn, Paul Shapiro and Ingrid Newkirk), and a fabulous soundtrack featuring vegan musicians. This great summer read would make a great summer movie.
