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A Little Life (English Edition)

Von Hanya Yanagihara
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SHORTLISTED FOR THE MAN BOOKER PRIZE 2015

'Brilliant'
INDEPENDENT ON SUNDAY

'Magical'
THE TIMES



'Engrossing'
SUNDAY EXPRESS

'Absorbing'
INDEPENDENT



**HANYA
YANAGIHARA**

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Von Hanya Yanagihara : A Little Life (English Edition) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Little Life (English Edition):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Problem of logicVon WoftieA lot has been written about this book, positive and negative. I read it with interest and there were things I liked and disliked, all of which have been dealt with elsewhere.So what I want to say may be seen as a quibble, but it continues to bother me. Jude St. Francis and his three close friends were born in the past half century, a

time when child welfare agencies existed and were active, as now. So I find it highly improbable that Jude could have been found by the brothers behind a drugstore and spirited away to live under social services' radar for 15 years. It was said that he occasionally was taken to the doctor or dentist, and there upon first presentation he would have required some kind of ID. An MD, if not a dentist, would surely have been suspicious of a child living in a monastery that did not include a school or boarding facilities. At some time Jude would have needed a birth certificate since you can't enroll at a college without proper personal documentation. So how were such documents obtained, by whom and when? We are no longer in an age when, at least in the United States, monasteries and convents take in foundlings, no questions asked. Simply implying that child services were asleep at the switch for 15 years just doesn't work for me.

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Disturbing, heart-breaking
Von Kathrin Potter
Jude has been abused terribly as a child and young teenager. At first glance, "A little life" tells the story of how Jude struggles all of his life to cope with his past. But then there's more. "A little life" not only tells of Jude, but also of his friends, the actor Willem, the architect Malcom, and the artist BJ. While the book focuses meticulously on Jude and paints the portrait of a man whose struggles are never enough to keep the past at bay and the present bearable, personally I connected best with the irritable and ambitious BJ. There's a lot of big questions in "A little life", and I do not doubt that it deserves the label "literature". However, this book is also one of the few books that I neither love blindly nor dismiss as trash without a second thought. "A little life" has touched me deeply and I suspect that it will stay with me for a long time. The five main characters -- yes, there's another narrator -- are well-rounded and feel authentic. I enjoyed joining them on their personal journeys and while the ending of the book had me in tears, I still feel it's a good ending. But then there's the stylistic choices Yanagihara makes. I disagree with reviews that praise her prose. "A little life" is well readable, but it is slow, and at times gets carried away by its own words. Some similes are ridiculous due to their length and "dreamy" quality. Additionally, dialogue is not Yanagihara's strength. The characters address each other by name every second sentence, which annoyed me a lot. Lastly, I keep wondering: This novel is being praised for its structure. But why, then, do Mal and BJ disappear as narrators after a third of the book? What did I miss here? To me, this choice felt inconsistent. Plus, parts of the book feel decidedly "sterile". The characters contemplate their situation and feelings a lot, but sometimes fail to act on these feelings. This was especially irritating for me when Willem realized he felt "attracted" to Jude. Yes, we, the readers, have been aware that there's more between the two than the usual, solid friendship. But how Willem and Jude start their "different" relationship is cold and technical to read. I never quite believed Willem when he declared his love for Jude, and that's sad. The part of the book that should have been the easiest to read and enjoy was the part that was the most tedious to me. In a similar way, Yanagihara's characters talk a lot about sex, but the reader never actually "participates" in any of it. All we get is allusions and forensics-like, general descriptions. This is absolutely appropriate and necessary for Jude's childhood; when he tries to form adult relationships, however, it feels out of place. In general, Yanagihara's style to me felt closer to the style of fairy-tales than a modern novel. Maybe this was intentional. Subjectively, I'm not a huge fan of it, though. On a different level, I'm not sure I'm happy with all characters ending up rich and famous. While I do not doubt that this sphere exists somewhere in society, I have to yet encounter it myself. The wealth and fame of the characters did not exactly detach them from me, but they didn't help me to identify with them either. These details definitely were not deal breakers for me, but I'm not convinced Jude or any other of the characters needed to be rich to tell their stories most effectively. Then there's gender: Some people complained that "A little life" does not feature female main characters. While I understand the point, this didn't bother me in the least, since sexuality was an issue in the book and neither of the characters was your stereotypical man. Additionally, Jude's world is a world of men. He needs to be reconciled with men, not with women, that's why the father and boyfriend figures are much more important for Jude than a mother or a girlfriend. (And, really, Jude is characterized in the second chapter as a person who doesn't fit into your conventional categories. Why should it be different for his gender?) While the perspective of Jude's step-mother could have been interesting, the book as a whole did not feel unbalanced to me because of the absence of female main characters. Overall, the premise of the book is ambitious and generally well delivered. Because of some minor stylistic imperfections (and yes, I have read books whose style I, subjectively, consider flawless), I'm unwilling to rate it five stars. Whom would I recommend this book to? Readers that bring with them patience and a thick skin. Please don't read this book if you have trouble dealing with violence, both physical and psychological, seek to be simply entertained or prefer feel-good stories that are suitable for the beach. "A little life" is none of this; but if you push through it and allow yourself to engage with the characters and the terror that Jude has to live with all his life, it is a rewarding read. I'm glad I read it, although I'm not sure I will read it again.

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Wunderbar!
Von Virginia H.
Ich habe dieses Buch nun vor ber einem Monat beendet und noch immer kann ich fhlen wie sehr es mich berhrt hat. Es ist zweifelslos eines des besten Bcher die ich jemals gelesen habe! Wahnsinn! Ich finde man steckt KOMPLETT in dieser Geschichte, der Liebe die sich entwickelt und auch dem Mitleid, das man fr Jude empfindet. Zumindest ging es mir so. Stellenweise hat die Handlung mir den Atem stocken lassen und ich musst ein paar Minuten durchatmen. So heftig sind die Geschehnisse. Daher: Sollten Sie keine Lust haben geschockt zu werden... stellenweise ist es echt hart und wird Ihnen dann keinen Spa machen! Ansonsten: Bitte lesen Sie dieses Buch!! Fr mich ist es so echt, man knnte meinen es sei eine wahre Geschichte. Der Schreibstil ist

wundervoll und vor allem die immer wieder eingestreuten Rückblenden bilden einen Spannungsbogen der bis zum (Vorsicht Spoiler - bitteren Ende) anht. Auch die deutsche bersetzung ist sehr gut gelungen! Ich werde dieses Buch sicherlich noch fters lesen und mir bei Zeiten die gebundene Ausgabe fr mein Bcherregal zulegen. Absolute Kaufempfehlung!

Kurzbeschreibung Shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize 2015 Shortlisted for the Baileys Prize for Women's Fiction 2016 Finalist for the National Book Awards 2015 The million copy bestseller, *A Little Life* by Hanya Yanagihara, is an immensely powerful and heartbreaking novel of brotherly love and the limits of human endurance. When four graduates from a small Massachusetts college move to New York to make their way, they're broke, adrift, and buoyed only by their friendship and ambition. There is kind, handsome Willem, an aspiring actor; JB, a quick-witted, sometimes cruel Brooklyn-born painter seeking entry to the art world; Malcolm, a frustrated architect at a prominent firm; and withdrawn, brilliant, enigmatic Jude, who serves as their centre of gravity. Over the decades, their relationships deepen and darken, tinged by addiction, success, and pride. Yet their greatest challenge, each comes to realize, is Jude himself, by midlife a terrifyingly talented litigator yet an increasingly broken man, his mind and body scarred by an unspeakable childhood, and haunted by what he fears is a degree of trauma that he'll not only be unable to overcome - but that will define his life forever. *Pressestimmen* A singularly profound and moving work . . . It's not often that you read a book of this length and find yourself thinking "I wish it was longer" but Yanagihara takes you so deeply into the lives and minds of these characters that you struggle to leave them behind. (Fiona Wilson *The Times*) *A Little Life* makes for near-hypnotically compelling reading, a vivid, hyperreal portrait of human existence that demands intense emotional investment . . . An astonishing achievement: a novel of grand drama and sentiment, but it's a canvas Yanagihara has painted with delicate, subtle brushstrokes. (Independent) One of the pleasures of fiction is how suddenly a brilliant writer can alter the literary landscape . . . Ms. Yanagihara's immense new book . . . announces her, as decisively as a second work can, as a major American novelist. Here is an epic study of trauma and friendship written with such intelligence and depth of perception that it will be one of the benchmarks against which all other novels that broach those subjects (and they are legion) will be measured. (Wall Street Journal) How often is a novel so deeply disturbing that you might find yourself weeping, and yet so revelatory about human kindness that you might also feel touched by grace? Yanagihara's astonishing and unsettling second novel . . . plumbs the rich inner lives of all of her characters... You don't just care deeply about all these lives. Thanks to the author's exquisite skill, you feel as if you are living them . . . *A Little Life* is about the unimaginable cruelty of human beings, the savage things done to a child and his lifelong struggle to overcome the damage. Its pages are soaked with grief, but it's also about the bottomless human capacity for love and endurance . . . It's not hyperbole to call this novel a masterwork - if anything that word is simply just too little for it (San Francisco Chronicle) Martin Amis once asked, "Who else but Tolstoy has made happiness really swing on the page?" And the surprising answer is that Hanya Yanagihara has: counterintuitively, the most moving parts of "*A Little Life*" are not its most brutal but its tenderest ones, moments when Jude receives kindness and support from his friends . . . "*A Little Life*" feels elemental, irreducible-and, dark and disturbing though it is, there is beauty in it (Jon Michaud *New Yorker*) Hanya Yanagihara's no-holds-barred second novel *A Little Life* has established her as a major new voice in US fiction. (Tim Adams *Observer*) Utterly compelling . . . quite an extraordinary novel. It is impossible to put down . . . And it is almost impossible to forget. (Mernie Gilmore *Daily Express*) [The] spring's must-read novel . . . Her debut . . . put her on the literary map, her massive new novel . . . signals the arrival of a major new voice in fiction . . . Her achievement has less to do with size than with her powerful evocation of the fragility of self . . . the pained beauty that suffuses this novel, an American epic that eloquently counters our culture's fixation with redemptive narratives. (Vogue US) [A] wholly immersive unforgettable read . . . You won't stop reading. And it's a novel that changes you. (Evening Standard) The triumph of *A Little Life*'s many pages is significant: It wraps us so thoroughly in a character's life that his trauma, his struggles, his griefs come to seem as familiar and inescapable as our own. There's no one way to experience loss, abuse, or the effects of trauma, of course, but the vividness of Jude's character and experiences makes the pain almost tangible, the fall-out more comprehensible. It's a monument of empathy, and that alone makes this novel wondrous (Huffington Post) Often painful but thoroughly brilliant . . . Yanagihara's massive new novel . . . is hurtful. That's because, among other things, it is the enthralling and completely immersive story of one man's unyielding pain. It also asks a compelling question: Can friends save us? Even from ourselves? . . . Yanagihara's close study of [her characters'] lives and Jude's trauma makes for a stunning work of fiction (New York Daily News) This spellbinding, feverish novel sucks you in . . . One of the most compassionate, moving stories of our time . . . An exquisitely written, complex triumph (Oprah.com) A darkly beautiful tale of love and friendship... I've read a lot of emotionally taxing books in my time, but *A Little Life* . . . is the only one I've read as an adult that's left me sobbing. I became so invested in the characters and their lives that I almost felt unqualified to review this book objectively . . . There are truths here that are almost too much to bear - that hope is a qualified thing, that even love, no matter how pure and freely given, is not always enough. This book made

me realize how merciful most fiction really is, even at its darkest, and it's a testament to Yanagihara's ability that she can take such ugly material and make it beautiful (Los Angeles Times)Capacious and consuming . . . Boast[s] a scale and immersive power to rival the recent epics of Donna Tartt and Elizabeth Gilbert . . . Alternately devastating and draining, *A Little Life* floats all sorts of troubling questions about the responsibility of the individual to those nearest and dearest and the sometime futility of playing brother's keeper. Those questions, accompanied by Yanagihara's exquisitely imagined characters, will shadow your dreamscapes (Boston Globe)An extraordinary book . . . *A Little Life* is quite deliberately a fable, not social realism . . . and all the more powerful for it. The truths it tells are wrenching, permanent. (David Sexton Evening Standard)This is an impressive and moving novel. (Hannah Rosefield Literary)*A Little Life* is Jude's story and it's his sorrow that colours this devastating, exhausting, strangely exhilarating novel. It's not in any way consoling but it is vitally compelling. (Eithne Farry Daily Express)How many times a year are you blown away by a book? That feeling that you can't stop reading, that your life might be a little bit changed? . . . I felt in the presence of genius, and 14 sleepless hours later I inhaled the last few sentences knowing I had found a masterpiece . . . Objectively, parts of this are a gruelling read, but such is the author's skill that the pages do seem to turn themselves as we race towards finding out the terrible secrets of Jude's dark trauma... I will be heading to the barricades if this doesn't win prizes galore (Cathy Rentzenbrink The Bookseller)Has so much richness in it - great big passages of beautiful prose, unforgettable characters, and shrewd insights into art and ambition and friendship and forgiveness (Entertainment Weekly)Astonishing . . . tender, torturous and achingly alive to the undeniable pain that can scar a life. (Psychologies)The clarity of Yanagihara's prose is perfect for dissecting blind ambition, the consolations of work and money, and how these paper over the cracks of fragile, fractured individuals . . . *A Little Life* is unlike anything else out there . . . Quite simply unforgettable. (James Kidd Independent on Sunday)This new book is long, page-turny, deeply moving, sometimes excessive, but always packed with the weight of a genuine experience. As I was reading, I literally dreamed about it every night . . . The book's driven obsessiveness is inseparable from the emotional force that will leave countless readers weeping . . . A wrenching portrait of the enduring grace of friendship. With her sensitivity to everything from the emotional nuance to the play of light inside a subway car, Yanagihara is superb at capturing the radiant moments of beauty, warmth and kindness that help redeem the bad stuff. In *A Little Life*, it's life's evanescent blessings that maybe, but only maybe, can save you (National Public Radio)Once she has you, Yanagihara is not going to let you go . . . Yanagihara . . . contains multitudes. She seems able to imagine anything . . . *A Little Life* . . . is, in its own dark way, a miracle (Newsday)At its heart *A Little Life* is a fairy tale that pits good against evil, love against viciousness, hope against hopelessness. The cruelty of the life Ms Yanagihara describes is trumped only by the tenacity with which she searches for an answer. (The Economist)The reader is pulled along by its express-train pace . . . it's certainly a great book. (John Harding Daily Mail)The first must-read novel of the year . . . The way to describe a novel you like, maybe the quickest way, is to say that you can't put it down. People say that all the time. There are also novels that compel trickier, but no less passionate, emotions. They are books that confront you and make you wrestle with them. You might feel protective of the characters and their fates; maybe you feel like the writer is talking directly to, or about, you and you are delighted but spooked about what the writer might reveal. There is no shorthand phrase for a novel that seduces you even as it frightens, guts, exhausts, and disgusts you. *A Little Life* is the most devastating but satisfying novel published so far this year . . . Finishing its 720 pages is like finishing one of the doorstep novels of 19th-century Russia: you feel worn out but wide awake ((Cover Story) Kirkus)Hanya Yanagihara's *A Little Life* is the thinking person's big book of the year so far, a long, complex and pretty dark look at the intertwined lives of four college friends. It reminds me of *The Corrections*, or a starker *The Interestings*, or a more linear work by David Foster Wallace. Really. It's that huge and important (.com)Set to become one of the year's most talked-about novels . . . The narrative is transporting. (Alex Clarke ES Magazine)*A Little Life* by Hanya Yanagihara, will be one of those books people ask you if you've read yet. Beat 'em to the punch (South Coast Today)Utterly enthralling . . . The phrase "tour de force" could have been invented for this audacious novel (Kirkus (Starred))Emerging from horror, persistent and enduring, is a touching, eternal, unconventional love story. (Maria Crawford Financial Times)*A Little Life* asks serious questions about humanism and euthanasia and psychiatry and any number of the partis pris of modern western life. It's *Entourage* directed by Bergman; it's the great 90s novel a quarter of a century too late; it's a devastating read that will leave your heart, like the Grinch's, a few sizes larger. (Alex Preston Observer)Transporting . . . *A Little Life* is not to be missed. (Alex Clark Evening Standard)Deeply moving . . . *A Little Life* interrogates notions of value and happiness as espoused by the 21st century American dream . . . Extraordinarily rich. (The National)A book that demands to be read. (James Daunt Wall Street Journal)A remarkable tale of love, friendship and the difficulties of embracing life when everything conspires against your right to happiness. (Sunday Herald)WerbetextA novel of extraordinary intelligence and heart, a masterful depiction of heartbreak, and a dark and haunting examination of the tyranny of experience and memory.