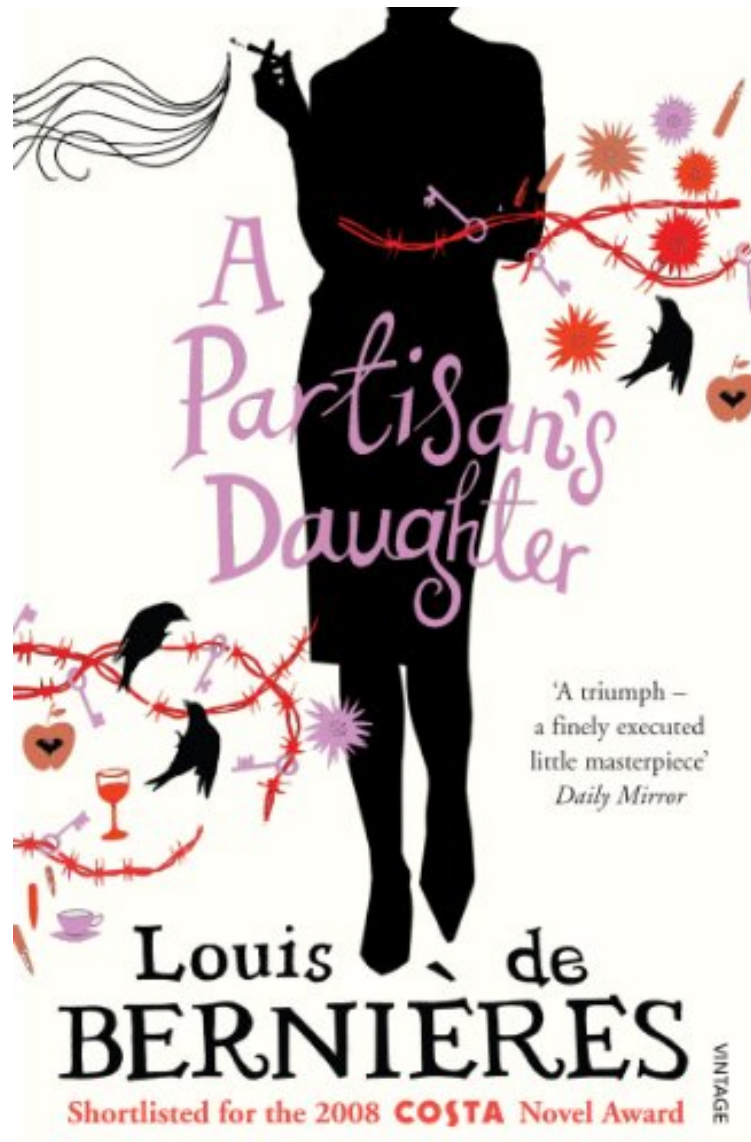


A Partisan's Daughter

Von Louis de Bernieres

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Von Louis de Bernieres : A Partisan's Daughter before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Partisan's Daughter:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Like watching a tennis matchVon Stephen A. HainesDisaffected husband Christian is finally driven to seek a street-walker for relief. The encounter proves entirely unfulfilling, since the young woman he attempts to pick up declares otherwise. Roza, however, perceiving his confusion and embarrassment, decides he's harmless and invites him to

return - on a platonic basis. The invitation leads Chris to becoming an adoring recipient of Roza's relation of her past life. In this brief compression of Roza's life and Chris' reaction to her tale, de Bernieres demonstrates that brevity can encompass much. Who is Roza? Chris never confronts that question directly. Instead, he lets her account of her life, implausible as much of it seems, wash over him. He accepts whatever she tells him at face value. He's shocked at much of it, of course. Roza is the daughter of a fighter for the Old Man - Tito - against the Nazi invaders of Yugoslavia. He's tough, and that trait has passed on to her. Roza's father is a sentimentalist as well, however, and she possesses that sense, also. Although it's never made clear how he managed the costs, Roza's parent sends her to university. Predictably, her first love is found there - except it isn't. De Bernieres passes the narration from Roza to Chris almost seamlessly. You are taken into one character's confidence only to be snatched away by the other. Feelings are dumped on you whether you wish them or not. Nothing here is hidden - or at least you are told what the narrator wishes you to learn. As you read, you are confronted with stark contrasts. Both characters are born out of their time. Chris watches the mixture of excitement and despair of 1970s Britain. Life among the young is less constrained, more experimental and free-thinking than he's used to. But Roza's flat is one among many occupied by young squatters in a very dilapidated building. Chris' heroes aren't Bob Dylan and The Rolling Stones - yet he realises he must come to grips with what they represent. The contrast with Roza could not be more stark. Her life has been a roller-coaster ride of delights and despairs. She's Chris' tour guide to a life he can't even imagine. Is it to his credit that he's not repelled enough to leave, sitting out the episodes of Roza's life with more grief than resentment. Why does he keep returning? Why does she wish him to? She's a mix of "young woman in control" and "victim of men's depravities" by her own admission. What is Chris' role in her life - to allow her to reassert her illusion of control or to demonstrate depravity is not gender specific? De Bernieres, for all he exposes the character's views to the reader, allows them to keep much hidden away. The finale to this taunting situation is inevitable, almost Hollywood in its predictability. Yet, that aspect doesn't disappoint. Any other conclusion would have been contrived. That this one is not detracts nothing from how the author leads the reader to it. The brevity of this book may suggest that it lacks depth. Nothing could be further from the truth. [stephen a. haines - Ottawa, Canada]

Kurzbeschreibung Chris is in his forties: bored, lonely, trapped in a loveless, sexless marriage. He's a stranger to the 1970s youth culture of London, a stranger to himself on the night he invites a prostitute into his car. Roza is Yugoslavian, recently moved to London. She's in her twenties, but has already lived a life filled with danger, misadventure, romance, and tragedy. And though she's not a prostitute, when she's propositioned by Chris, she gets into his car anyway. Over the next few months Roza tells Chris the stories of her past. She's a fast-talking Scheherazade, saving her own life by telling it to Chris. And he takes in her tales as if they were oxygen in an otherwise airless world. But is Roza telling the truth? Does it even matter? From Publishers Weekly De Bernieres (Corelli's Mandolin) delivers an oddball love story of two spiritually displaced would-be lovers. During a dreary late 1970s London winter, stolid and discontented Chris is drawn to seedy and mysterious Roza, a Yugoslav migre he initially believes is a prostitute. She isn't (though she claims to have been), and soon the two embark on an awkward friendship (Chris would like to imagine it as a romance) in which Roza spins her life's stories for her nondescript, erstwhile suitor. Roza, whose father supported Tito, moved to London for opportunity but instead found a school of hard knocks, and she's all too happy to dole out the lessons she learned to the slaving Chris. The questions of whether Roza will fall for Chris and whether Chris will leave his wife (he calls her the Great White Loaf) carry the reader along, as the reliability of Chris and Roza, who trade off narration duties, is called into question sometimes to less than ideal effect. The conclusion is crushing, and Chris's scorching regret burns brightly to the last line. (Oct.) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. Pressestimmen Praise for A Partisan's Daughter: In characteristic de Bernieres fashion, the novel . . . wins us over. . . . As a writer, de Bernieres is truly international in his scope, inhabiting one country after another with convincing detail and authority. . . . [A Partisan's Daughter] rarely strikes a false note, and it contains lessons about love and regret and seizing the moment. . . . Its a wise and moving novel, perfectly accomplished. It shows that no life is ordinary. It shines fresh light on the nature of love. The Guardian Louis de Bernieres delights in taking peripheral episodes of European history and viewing them on a human scale, moulding political events to the shape of ordinary lives. . . . Like Ian McEwan's On Chesil Beach, A Partisan's Daughter is a retrospective lament for all that could have been, had one moment in the past turned out differently. . . . It is also a story about the power of storytelling. The Observer [A] Corellian mix of European idyll and brutal violence . . . compelling. Evening Standard "This is a silk stocking of a novel: fragile, light, of little practical purpose - and yet possessed of surprising tensile strength. De Bernieres' mellifluous, clear prose slips through the reader's mind with efficient ease, and even at its most dramatically jarring, you never need to come up for air. This is de Bernieres' skill, and it is a considerable one. The world is full of ponderous, self-important novelists; making it look this simple is a real art." - Times UK It's a glory. . . . Like Ian McEwan's On Chesil Beach, A Partisan's Daughter is a novel about missed opportunities and wrong paths taken, tracing the way in which one false move can alter the history

of a life. . . . Its a wise and moving novel, perfectly accomplished. It shows that no life is ordinary. It shines fresh light on the nature of love. The Guardian Praise for *Birds Without Wings*: De Bernires has unquestionably crafted a masterpiece. - The Chronicle-Herald (Halifax) This is a magnificent, poetic, colossal novel, filled with wry, poignant stories that overlap like sheets on a windy day. . . . It is, in every sense, a sublime book. - The Irish Times