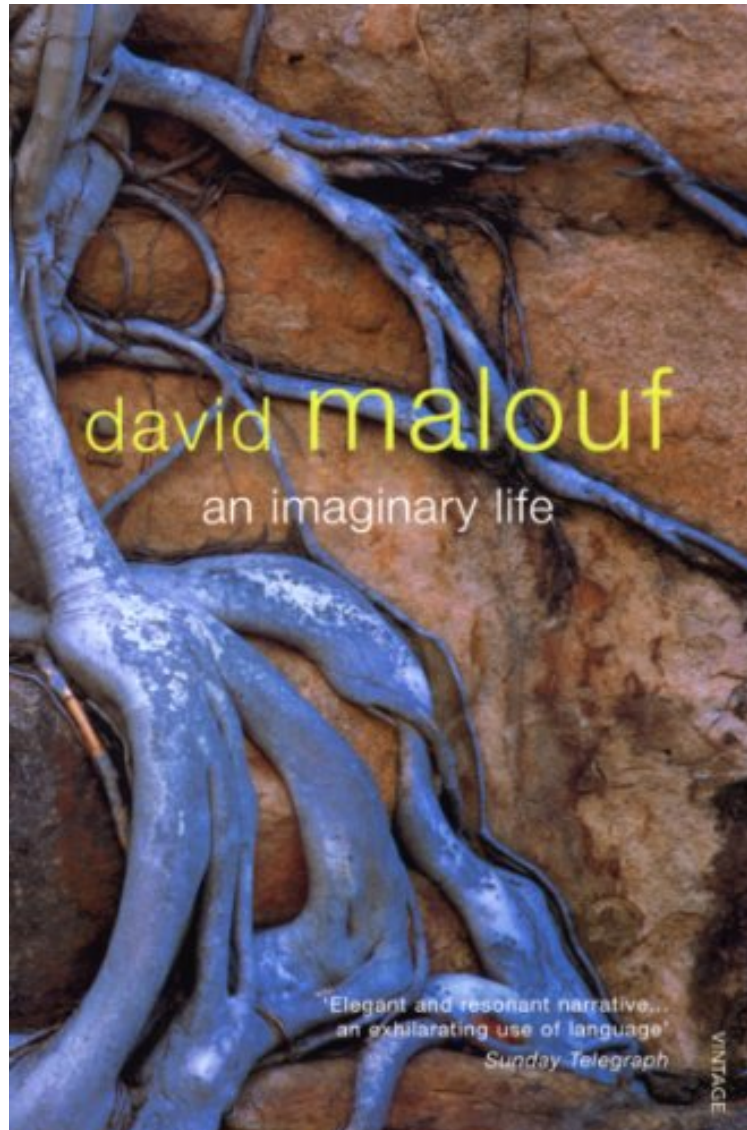


(Free pdf) An Imaginary Life

An Imaginary Life

Von David Malouf

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Von David Malouf : An Imaginary Life before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised An Imaginary Life:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen1 von 2 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Unexpectedly gripping, involving.Von Mary WhippleDavid Malouf, the talented Australian author of this novel, often writes of cultural conflict or misunderstanding, and he never fails to convey the tensions felt by his protagonists as they grapple with the demons they face. I probably should have had more faith when I began this novel, but the plot

line is so bizarre that I couldn't imagine becoming involved with these characters. Exiled to a remote part of Asia Minor where he knows no one, does not understand the culture, and does not speak the language, the Roman poet Ovid, after failing to become an integral part of his new community, makes contact with a wild child who has been living with wolves, the only being more isolated than he. As the unlikely pair begins to communicate, the author's themes of identity, value, and truth take shape and lead to an inevitable conclusion. Ultimately, I did begin to identify with Ovid and to share the feelings of the wolf child, a tribute to the awesome ability of this author to create new worlds.

1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Malouf metamorphoses Ovid's last days into flawless art. Von Ein Kunde. Reviewers are too loose with the praise, "You've never read a book like this one!" But you have not, indeed, ever read a book like David Malouf's *An Imaginary Life*. He gives us the great Latin poet Ovid in a barbaric village on the shores of the Black Sea, exiled from Rome for offending the emperor Augustus. And here he meets a strange boy, a boy who seems to have never had any human contact before. Ovid "captures" the boy and begins to "humanize" him, but this is only the beginning of the tale, because the wild boy has something to teach Ovid as well. By no means a typical tale of "civilized man" meeting "feral child" or "noble savage," *An Imaginary Life* shows us Ovid, the poet of amoral seduction, learning to love like a father and to find, in his primitive surroundings, a form of life he could never have discovered in sophisticated and decadent Rome. In other hands, the story might have been "mere" fantasy or science fiction. In poet Malouf's hands, however, *An Imaginary Life* is a new *Odyssey*, but one in which the destination is not the much-longed-for home, but an entrance into another world.

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Am Ende der Welt. Von Ein Kunde. Der Dichter Ovid wird wegen ungezogenen Lebenswandels und unbequemer literarischer Uerungen aus dem moralisch-spiessigen Rom verbannt. Diese Verbannung ist schlimmer aufzufassen als die Todesstrafe, bedeutet sie doch ein Leben auerhalb der Gesellschaft und fern ab jeder bekannten Kultur. Ovid wird an den stlichen Auenposten des rmlischen Reiches, in die Stadt Tomis (heute Constanta, Rumnien) am Schwarzen Meer gebracht, in einen Haushalt, dessen Menschen ihm fremd sind und deren Sprache er nicht versteht. Dennoch verzweifelt er nicht an seiner Situation, vielmehr versucht er eine Sozialisation und erlernt die Sprache. So schafft er eine Annherung an die neue Umgebung. Die neue Nhe wird ihm aber zur Gefahr, als er das Wolfskind zu sich aufnimmt. Dieses in der Wildnis aufgewachsene Kind durchluft einen ungleich schmerzhafteren Sozialisationsprozess als Ovid selbst. Der Dichter findet in dem Kind sein seit der Kindheit schmerzlich vermisstes Alter Ego und letztlich den Sinn des Lebens. Dieser liegt fr ihn abseits der sogenannten rmlischen Zivilisation, bei der berschreitung der Grenzen des bekannten Kulturkreises und der Herausforderung des Unbekannten. (Dies ist eine .de an der Uni-Studentenrezension.)

Kurzbeschreibung In the first century AD, Publius Ovidius Naso, the most urbane and irreverant poet of imperial Rome, was banished to a remote village on the edge of the Black Sea. From these sparse facts, one of our most distinguished novelists has fashioned an audacious and supremely moving work of fiction. Marooned on the edge of the known world, exiled from his native tongue, Ovid depends on the kindness of barbarians who impute their dead and converse with the spirit world. But then he becomes the guardian of a still more savage creature, a feral child who has grown up among deer. What ensues is a luminous encounter between civilization and nature, as enacted by a poet who once catalogued the treacheries of love and a boy who slowly learns how to give it.

Pressestimmen "A work of unusual intelligence and imagination...[a sort of] fantasia on what Ovid's life in exile might have been and, as time went by, became, as the quintessentially civilized man of letters was forced to come to terms with a harsh, pre-rational, thoroughly alien world" (Katha Pollitt *New York Times*) "Elegant and resonant narrative...an exhilarating use of language" (*Sunday Telegraph*) "Haunting" (*Sunday Telegraph*) "David Malouf, a spare and delicate writer, presents here the first-person story of the Roman poet Ovid's exile in the distant, frosty wastes...hypnotic in its gripping accumulation of detail, its gradual unwrapping of human reality amid what at first seems a barbarian and unknowable environment. At the centre of this meticulously well-told tale is Ovid's encounter with a wild boy, brought up among the deer in the snow" (*Sunday Times*) **Werbetext** 'A brilliantly inventive novel... Malouf puts on a dazzling literary display in this arresting, original, lyrical work' *Wall Street Journal*