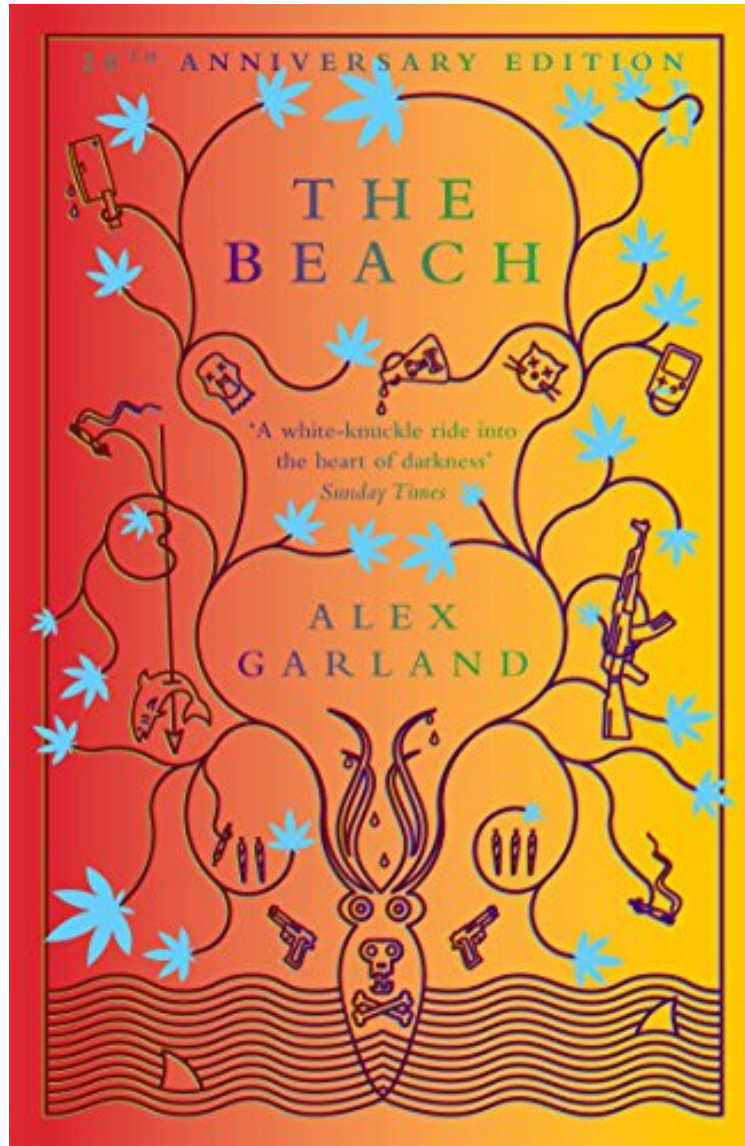


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The Beach

Von Alex Garland

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Von Alex Garland : The Beach before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Beach:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Erschreckendes Phnomen des Tourismus'Von MonaMir wurde das Buch empfohlen im Rahmen des Studiums Tourismusmanagement und ich bin begeistert von diesem Buch. Es beschreibt sehr gut wie aus einem unbekanntem Ort mit der Zeit sehr schnell ein berflter Touristenort werden kann und der zuvor einsame unbekannte Ort an

Besonderheit verliert. Es erzählt dies aber in einer fesselnden Geschichte und nicht wie in einem Sachbuch. Ich würde es jederzeit wieder lesen. Am besten in der Originalsprache englisch.0 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. There is no escape and no futureVon Dr Jacques COULARDEAU Alex Garland committed the supreme crime against escapism. He picked up the axiomatic of Lord of the Flies and transposed it into our world, on some virgin island in Thailand, with adults who are trying to escape from our consumer's society to reach paradise on earth with total separation from the world (not so total after all since they have a boat to go back to civilization and buy some food, some batteries and some other items of the type), with the sun, the perfect water of a lagoon, a lot of dope (marihuana), and some coconut beer. A limited, secret society of its own. This society is dominated by a woman who exerts absolute power and chess manipulation over the members, her children in her mind. They work every morning, either fishing, or gardening, or carpeting, or cooking. Then they enjoy the sun, the sand, the water and the jungle around them the rest of the time, and then in the evening and night, their dope and their total hallucinating trips. One of the founders escapes from there, haunted that he is by the Vietnam war that does not disappear from his memory, and sends three new comers to this beach. These three arrive and are accepted and we delve into the psychology of the narrator, a certain Englishman Richard, and we discover the transformation with the erasing of time and space, of any social link with the outside world. They are obliged to share the island with some Thai people who are illegally growing marihuana in another part of the island. The description of this going back to the wilderness is marvellously described and analyzed, though interlaced with mental visits of the escaped founder who had committed suicide in Bangkok, before giving Richard the map of the island. And we discover that this society is a perfectly human society. But, due to some crises (the attack of three fishermen by a shark, the subsequent death of two of them and mental derangement of the third one, the menace of the arrival of five more uninvited - except by Richard in Bangkok - newcomers, their interception by the military guards of the marihuana fields and their subsequent torturing and killing), we find out that Sal, the female chief of this escapist society, is a real fascist, able to order Richard to kill the deranged fisherman when he escapes, and to do what is necessary to stop the new comers, which means death, though this death will come from the marihuana guards. She is the mother of this society, some kind of God-Mother who has the right of life and death over all the members, who forces them to work hard for survival, etc. The book reveals that normal adults who want to flee from consumer's society in our modern conditions, without any excuse since they do this trip voluntarily, that those normal adults regress to a primitive life style, but also to an absolute dictatorship out of fear, an overprotective spirit concerning their little world, the secrecy of this world, their total rejection of the outside world, and of course their deeply ingrained death instinct. And this regression leads them to the blurring out of the thin limit between life and death, I mean the life and death of others (for every single one member). And luckily, just before, or rather in the middle of the killing of Richard by the other members who are drunk and stoned, Richard, the two friends he came with, another friend he made on this island and an older and mysterious friend of his, will manage to escape before being caught up in absolute horror, and death. There is no escape from our world that does not lead to the primitive mentality of the clan and the absolute dependence the clan requires from any member and the killing by all members of those who may not be absolutely in line with that collective crushing of individual minds. This book is a masterpiece that goes beyond Lord of the Flies, because it deals with willing adults, with a voluntary escape, and also with the colonial and imperialistic spirit that lies behind: they capture a piece of territory in Thailand and make it their own. This is emphasized by the constant allusions to Vietnam, brought into the psychology of Richard by the dead escapee's ghost who gave him the map, because for him this beach is Saigon just before the fall in 1975. A must for all those who think that escape is possible and desirable. Dr Jacques COULARDEAU, Universities of Paris IX and II.0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A beach paradise without love or sex? No thanks.Von Beth Powanda Shady An overpraised book that owes much to Lord of the Flies, which is better written, more concise, and more profound, even after 40 years. Garland throws all his energy into setting up a few good violent scenes (especially the climax), but character isn't his strong point. Also, the beach community that Garland invents is hardly appealing, even at first glance. None of these fun-loving tourists has much fun; they don't even seem to like one another. All they do is smoke dope, play soccer occasionally, and fish. Richard, the main character, doesn't have one romantic interlude throughout the book (a 6-month span). Doesn't anybody have sex in this community? The American pop-culture references, which weigh down each paragraph of the book, in the end become vapid, repetitious, and tiresome. Same with the trippy dream sequences. The book just doesn't have much substance. Maybe the movie will be better.

Kurzbeschreibung A 20th anniversary edition of this million copy bestseller, with a new introduction by John Niven: a classic story of paradise found - and lost. Richard lands in East Asia in search of an earthly utopia. In Thailand, he is given a map promising an unknown island, a secluded beach - and a new way of life. What Richard finds when he gets there is breathtaking: more extraordinary, more frightening than his wildest dreams. But how long can paradise survive here on Earth? And what lengths will Richard go to in order to save it?.de In our ever-shrinking world, where popular

Western culture seems to have infected every nation on the planet, it is hard to find even a small niche of unspoiled land--forget searching for pristine islands or continents. This is the situation in Alex Garland's debut novel, *The Beach*. Human progress has reduced Eden to a secret little beach near Thailand. In the tradition of grand adventure novels, Richard, a rootless traveller rambling around Thailand on his way somewhere else, is given a hand-drawn map by a madman who calls himself Daffy Duck. He and two French travellers set out on a journey to find this paradise. What makes this a truly satisfying novel is the number of levels on which it operates. On the surface it's a fast-paced adventure novel; at another level it explores why we search for these utopias, be they mysterious lost continents or small island communes. Garland weaves a gripping and thought-provoking narrative that suggests we are, in fact, such products of our Western culture that we cannot help but pollute and ultimately destroy the very sanctuary we seek. -- .comPressestimmenA gripping adventure, and a fascinating jigsaw * *The Times* * Fresh, fast-paced, compulsive and clever -- Nick Hornby A white-knuckle ride into the heart of darkness * *Sunday Times* * *Lord of the Flies* and *The Magus* lurk at the roots of this novel, but Garland reshapes them with panache into something terrifyingly new * *Mail on Sunday* * A mesmerising, knuckle-clenching read * *Maxim* * Winningly compulsive, brilliantly conceived * *Q* * Garland's prose is stunningly lucid. Addictive and compelling * *Spectator* * A highly confident debut...this incisive novel may well come to be regarded as a defining text in the history of imaginative travel writing * *Daily Telegraph* * Alex Garland is writing a brand new kind of adventure novel. His style is dangerously simple yet altogether captivating -- Douglas Rushkoff An exceptional first novel...An action novel that provokes subtle responses, *The Beach* takes in ideas about man's inevitable progress from noble savage to social breakdown (and) the related tradition of nature versus art * *The Times Literary Supplement* * Garland has written a powerful and frighteningly believable novel * *Company* * Precise and speedy prose, with good old-fashioned romantic adventure spiced up with deadpan authorial irony * *Guardian* *