

(Free) The Black Book: A Novel

The Black Book: A Novel

Von Orhan Pamuk

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Von Orhan Pamuk : The Black Book: A Novel before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Black Book: A Novel:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Dark, and Powerfull.Von jan augustWhat a powerful book! I had never heard of Orhan Pamuk until a Turkish friend of mine reccomended it to me as an example of Turkish literature.On a superficial level this is a mystery novel. The main character Galip's life is turned upside down after the two people he cares most about disappear. His wife - Ruya and his older cousin and his hero, the famous journalist Jelal. This book however, cuts a lot deeper . The overwhelming

theme of the book is the difficult search for personal and national identity. The book is cleverly constructed. Jelal's newspaper columns are interwoven in the narrative so that every chapter of narrative is followed by Jelal's newspaper column. Besides acquainting us with Galip's hero, the newspaper columns mostly serve to tackle the question of Turkish identity and its shift towards the west. The narrative, or Galip's solitary, obsessive and claustrophobic search tackles the question of personal identity. This is a truly dark and pessimistic book. Pamuk seems to suggest that introverted personalities often become overshadowed by the extroverted ones and consequently become rejected - Galip's fate is truly tragic. The only criticism I have is that Pamuk sometimes seems to re-iterate his points so much that it sometimes becomes repetitive. Also, although I don't speak Turkish, I have some doubts about the translation. Some sentences and paragraphs seem uncharacteristically clumsy. Nevertheless, I highly recommend this book. It isn't easy reading, but it will stay with you for a long time after you have read the final page.

2 von 2 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. An excellent book for history lovers. Von Ein Kunde This is an astonishing book. Turkish speakers should immediately read Dr. Murat Belge's Guide of Istanbul (Istanbul Gezi Rehberi, Tarih Vakfi yayini.) after reading the Black Book. I believe this will be a very useful and complimentary reading and will definitely help the reader discover the magical world of Pamuk, where one loves to get lost.

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Engrossing but exasperating journey within modern Istanbul. Von Ein Kunde I tried reading this book when I first moved to Istanbul nearly two years ago but found it so overwhelming that I couldn't cope with its density and countless diversions. I put it down but sent a copy to my sister-in-law who told me she read it in five sittings and enjoyed it tremendously. Finally over the culture shock I had experienced coming here, I picked it up again. Several times I threw it aside, but finally I could not give up on Galip/Jelal and read through to the end. Pamuk weaves a masterful tale and the stories and observations are totally enthralling. Knowing Istanbul makes the book even more interesting. Pamuk's descriptions of the streets, the vendors, the buildings and people are lucid and evocative. The juxtaposition of the plot chapters and newspaper columns is a brilliant construction. However, I give it only three stars for the same reason I would give only three stars to his novel *The White Castle*: he is repetitive. He reiterates over and over again his theme and his dilemmas. His prose is wonderfully engrossing when he allows it to flow, but he does not give his readers enough credit. I wanted more of a chance to use my own perception, even if not so highly refined as the author's.

Kurzbeschreibung The Black Book is a stunning tapestry of Middle Eastern and Islamic culture which confirms Orhan Pamuk's reputation as a writer of international stature, comparable to Borges and Calvino. Galip is an Istanbul lawyer, and his wife, Ruya, has vanished. Could she be hiding out with her half brother, Jelal, a newspaper columnist whose fame Galip envies? And if so, why isn't anyone in Jelal's flat? As Galip plays the part of private investigator, he assumes the identity of Jelal himself, wearing his clothes, answering his phone calls, even faking his wry columns, which he passes off as the work of the missing journalist. But the amateur sleuth bungles his undercover operation, and with dire consequences.

Richly atmospheric and Rabelaisian in scope, *The Black Book* is a labyrinthine novel suffused with the sights, sounds, and scents of Istanbul. An unforgettable evocation of the city where East meets West, *The Black Book* is a boldly unconventional mystery that plumbs the elusive nature of identity, fiction, interpretation, and reality.

Pressestimmen Turkey's foremost novelist and one of the most interesting literary figures anywhere . . . A first-rate storyteller . . . Pamuk's is an astounding achievement. Savkar Altinel, *The Times Literary Supplement*