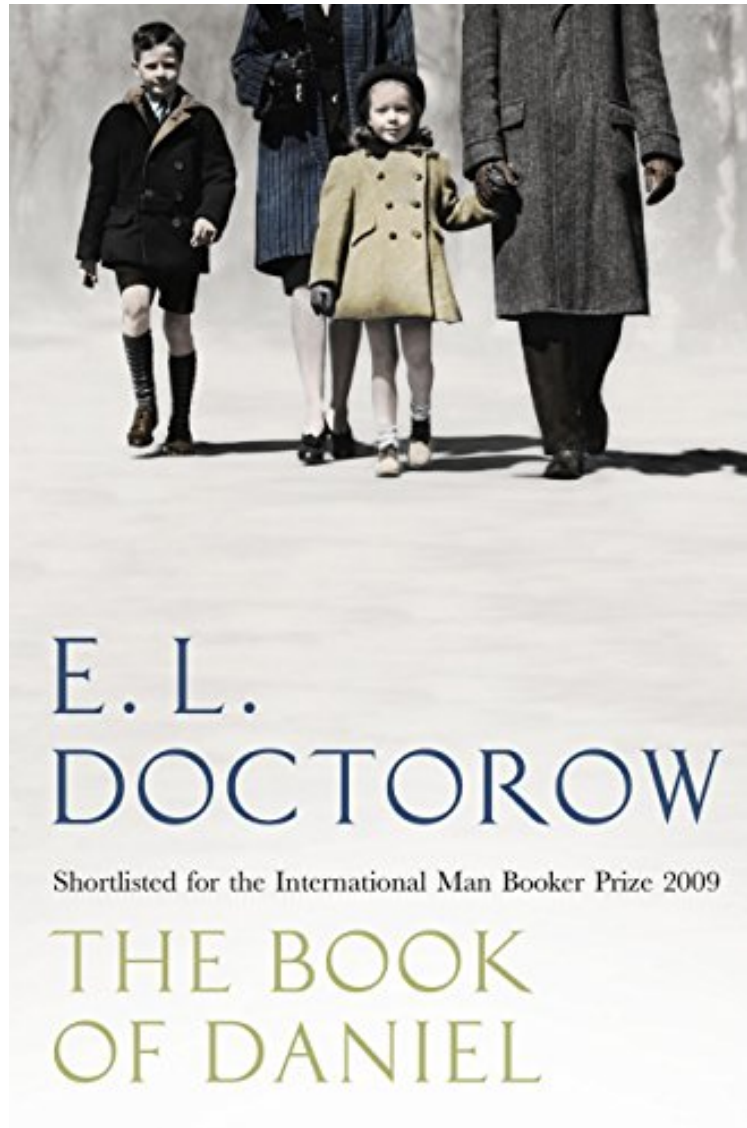


[Pdf free] The Book of Daniel (English Edition)

## The Book of Daniel (English Edition)

Von E. L. Doctorow

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**Von E. L. Doctorow : The Book of Daniel (English Edition)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Book of Daniel (English Edition):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen2 von 2 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich.  
Powerful and harrowing - a colossal literary achievementVon Ein KundeE L Doctorow's "The Book of Daniel" filled me with an indescribable sense of horror I wasn't remotely prepared for. I confess to being a novice in American history but when I finished the book, I thought perhaps I understood for the first time the political landscape that

inspired Arthur Miller's "The Crucible", which I recall having studied for my A-levels English literature exams many years ago. It seems to me that madness lies latent and lurks beneath every human society, even one that professes to be the universal champion of human rights. In Doctorow's words, "the Isaacsons were confirmed in guilt because of who campaigned for their freedom, and their supporters discredited because they campaigned for the Isaacsons" - a totally circular and tautologous logic ! Yet, the novel's central concern isn't necessarily about the tragic path Paul and Rochelle Isaacson took to the electric chair, but about the permanent and devastating impact the arrest and murder of the Isaacsons had on the lives of their two small children, Daniel and Susan. How else can one explain the perfect boy, Daniel's sudden, cruel and violent turns which visits his own wife and son long after his parents' tragic death. Or the intelligent Susan's continued breakdown and descent into madness. Doctorow certainly takes wild liberties with time, jumping backwards and forwards in his narration. He also mixes first and third person narrative techniques and uses a blend of historical fact and commentary to reinforce the power of the tragedy. Reading "The Book of Daniel" was an eye-opening and harrowing experience for me. It moved me to tears and even reflecting on it sends chills down my spine. This is essential reading. Powerful and harrowing - "The Book of Daniel" is a truly colossal literary achievement. Read it !0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A most intriguing piece of "postmodern" fictionVon Michael SchferE.L. Doctorow's 1971 novel "The Book of Daniel" is both a fictionalization of the then controversial execution of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg as "atom bomb spies" for the Soviet Union in the Cold War and Anti-Communist hysteria in the USA of the early 1950s and the McCarthy era, as well as an intriguing piece of fiction in its own right, a novel about a young man and his struggle to come to terms with his past and his present life. Daniel Lewin, protagonist and narrator of the novel, is a young graduate student and the elder of two children of the deceased Communist couple Rochelle and Paul Isaacson (easily identifiable as "the Rosenbergs"). In the course of the novel, the reader is granted more and more insight into his present life with his wife and his baby son, his conflicts with his foster parents and his sister, his struggle to position himself as a critical thinker in the political framework of Vietnam War-traumatized America, and his longing to finally get to know the truth about why his parents were actually executed by a state that claims to be democratic and based on principles of justice. Thereby, the text is shaped by what one could label "postmodern" techniques: Neither is Daniel's life story told in a linear fashion, nor is he a reliable narrator, but rather a very doubtful and sometimes horribly unlikeable character, who on the other hand proves to possess a very intelligent and self-critical mind and does not take anything for granted, not even the left-wing myth of his own parents as heroes. Thus, "The Book of Daniel" delivers an intriguing mixture of captivating episodes of treason and betrayal, sex, rock music and drug abuse, but also reflections about post World War II US governmental policy, political systems in general and, last but not least, Communist ideology, with a critical focus on all these aspects. In this way, the novel manages to draw a multi-layered, critical, clear-sighted and unideological portrait of two periods of American history which are heavily intertwined - and certainly worth looking at from our 21st century perspective. But the most intriguing thing about Doctorow's novel is the fact that albeit this strong political focus, it is still a most personal and touching story of an angry, yet not inhuman young man who has suffered immensely, and who desperately strives to make sense of his existence. "The Book of Daniel" is one of the most complex and intriguing works of American fiction I have ever read - I can only recommend it to everyone who is willing to have a good read not exclusively for the purpose of quick entertainment, but also for serious reflection about such concepts as life, love, death and politics.0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Bugs Bunny, totalitarianVon Ein KundeThis is the first book I've read from E.L. Doctorow. His style is initially disconcerting because it isn't tethered to a linear structure. Time can't progress without folding in on itself. Even sentences are often interrupted and excised of all punctuation. Perspectives shift between first and third person -- which a previous reviewer noted can be confusing. Yet the book is so saturated in details, the characters display so many nuanced shades of anger and pride and cruelty and love, that it brings the book to a level that everyone can understand. The people in this book are such smart asses, all of them! Daniel's grandmother, the black man in his basement, the pathetic palsied Mindish who we're never quite permitted to hate. In that sense "Daniel" is a politically sophisticated work in that it acknowledges politics and government as flawed and limited structures created by flawed and limited people (like sentences). Daniel observes that his sister died by a lack of analysis. It's evident that an abundance of such is how he hopes to keep living. I left the book feeling like I was cheating myself by not having a mind as active and relentless as Daniel's. I'm grateful for this book. And I'm sort of glad it isn't very popular. Seems to confirm its authenticity.

KurzbeschreibungFBI agents pay a surprise visit to a Communist man and his wife in their New York apartment, and after a trial that divides the country, the couple are sent to the electric chair for treason. Decades later, in 1967, their son Daniel struggles to understand the tragedy of their lives. But while he is tormented by his past and trying to appreciate his own wife and son, Daniel is also haunted, like millions of others, by the need to come to terms with a country destroying itself in the Vietnam War. A stunning fictionalization of a political drama that tore the United States apart, The Book of Daniel is an intensely moving tale of political martyrdom and the search for

meaning. Pressestimmen A ferocious feat of the imagination . . . Every scene is perfectly realized and feeds into the whole the themes and symbols echoing and reverberating. Newsweek A nearly perfect work of art, and art on this level can only be a cause for rejoicing. Joyce Carol Oates This is an extraordinary contemporary novel, a stunning work. San Francisco Chronicle The political novel of our age . . . the best work of its kind. New Republic Remarkable . . . One of the finest works of fiction. Minneapolis Star Tribune Stirring, brilliant, very moving. Houston Post Werbetext The classic novel of an America inflamed by Cold War hysteria.