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The Comfort Of Strangers

Von Ian McEwan

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Von Ian McEwan : The Comfort Of Strangers before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Comfort Of Strangers:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen10 von 11 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich.
Mesmerizing, hypnotic stuffVon schikoHaving seen the movie (Christopher Walker is a genius, as always) and having read the book afterwards I still am deeply touched by it. What irritates me most is that I cannot explain exactly why - I can only repeat the adjectives given in the title of this review which I read in several movie recensions.

ATMOSPHERE is perhaps the right word, and since Daphne DuMaurier's "Don't look back" (movie from 1973) or even Thomas Mann's "Death in Venice" (movie from 1970) there is obviously no other town on earth in which the depressing or eerie atmosphere lurking around the corner is palpable like that. Some reviewers criticized the book as "unconvincing" and "implausible" (even as "boring" which I read incredulously!), its actions "inconceivable" - perhaps they should stick to reading James Bond novels or the like... But if you prefer brilliant reading about the mysterious, sinister and non-superficial side of human lives, you have to try this book! 1 von 2 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A Big Waste of Time Von Hakan T. This is one of the worst novels I have ever read in my life. The plot is totally unconvincing and extremely boring, and there is no character development. The British couple cannot find a bottle of water to drink in the whole city of Venice, they wake up naked in a strange place and do not wonder where they are, the reader has no clue why they are bored with each other until they meet the sado-masochistic couple, endless and wordy descriptions of Venice, a woman who enjoys it when her husband breaks her ribs. Give me a break! If you want to read good modern British fiction writers, try Graham Greene, Anthony Burgess, John Fowles, Martin Amis, and of course, Salman Rushdie. McEwan is a waste of time, including his Amsterdam in which it is not difficult for the reader to guess the ending and again there is basically no character development. 8 von 9 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Second Novel by Ian McEwan Von taking a rest I would guess like many readers I came upon this writer's work when he began receiving international acclaim for his work, "Amsterdam", in 1998 when the novel won The Booker Prize. I have read his work that has been published after that tale, and now have been going back to his earlier work, a decision that can be very rewarding, or quite the opposite. I suppose expecting earlier work to be less mature or skillful is reasonable, but there are also writers that appear with an initial work that is very good or even excellent, and they manage, with some exceptions, to keep the quality of work very high. Other writers peak with their first book, there are no rules. "The Comfort Of Strangers" is the second novel that Mr. McEwan published, and it would be fair to call it more of a short story. I don't know what divides a short story from a novella from a novel; it appears publishers use the terms interchangeably at times. From the two earlier works I have read, this book along with, "The Innocent", Mr. McEwan to date, sits in the category of writers who get better as they hone their craft. This may appear to be the normal course of a writer's development, but we all have read otherwise. My primary complaint with this book is that the author worked around the fringes of what many would consider taboo conduct, darts in for a moment or two of detail, but does not fully explore the issues he touches upon, nor does he complete his tale. Another author that I am a great admirer of is Penelope Fitzgerald who said she never let her characters decide where they would go in a story, she decided their every move. Now again this may sound obvious, who controls their characters if not the author, but she was speaking of having a plan for her players from opening page to closing paragraph. Mr. McEwan does not manage the detail of his characters here, he asks the reader to fill in the detail or in some cases the blanks. In this book I do not like the decision he made, but for admirers of his work that wish to go back to his earlier published material, this is a quick and interesting read of an author that has gone on to be internationally recognized.

Kurzbeschreibung Colin and Mary are a couple whose intimacy knows no bounds. Away on a holiday together in a nameless city, they get lost one evening in a labyrinth of streets and canals. They happen upon Robert, a stranger with a dark history, who takes them to a bar and ushers them down into a subterranean land of violence and obsession. Pressestimmen "As the best young writer on this island, McEwan's evocations of feeling and place and his analysis of mood and relationship remain haunting and compelling." The Times (London) "As always, McEwan manages his own idiom with remarkable grace and inventiveness; his characters are at home in their dreams, and so is he." The Guardian "The Maestro." New Statesman "McEwan has a style and a vision of life of his own... No one interested in the state and mood of contemporary Britain can afford not to read him." John Fowles "A sparkling and adventurous writer." Dennis Potter McEwan, that master of the taciturn macabre, so organizes his narrative that, without insisting anything, every turn and glimpse is another tightening of the noose. The evils of power and the power of evil are transmitted with a steely coolness, and in a prose that has a feline grace. Observer Werbetext Re-jacketed in stunning new series style, The Comfort of Strangers is the second novel from Booker prize-winning, Sunday Times-bestselling Ian McEwan.