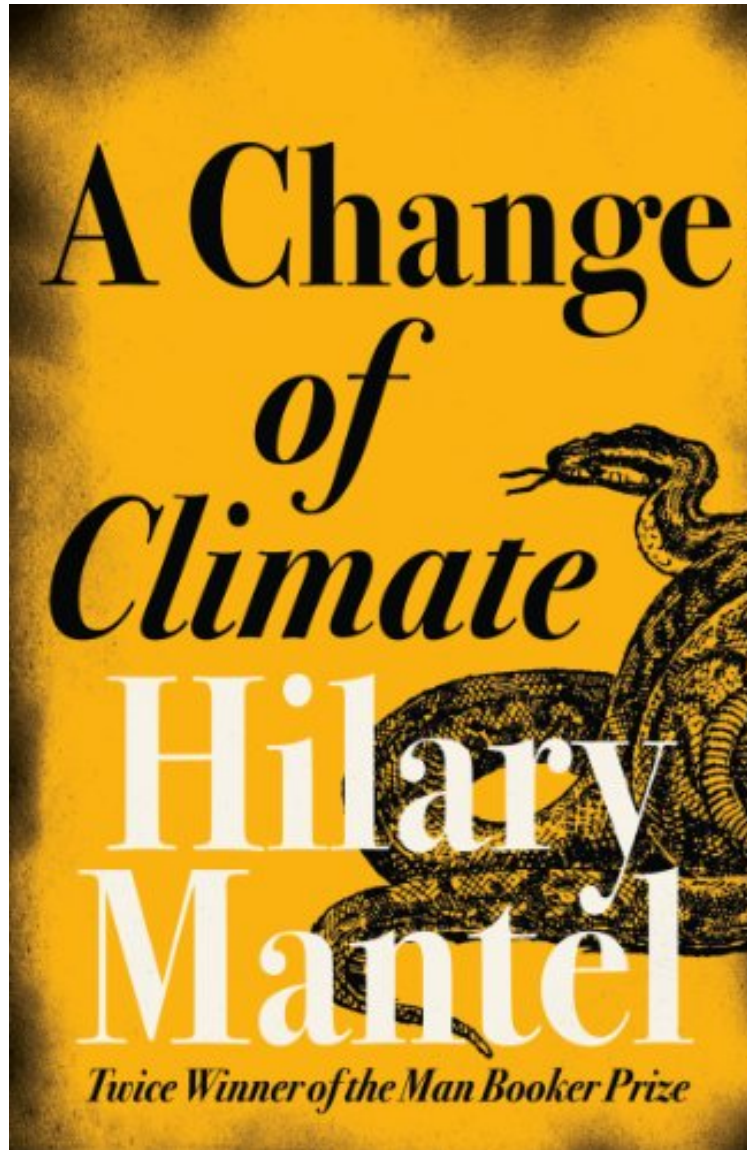


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A Change of Climate

Von Hilary Mantel

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Von Hilary Mantel : A Change of Climate before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Change of Climate:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen3 von 3 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. No Good Deed Goes UnpunishedVon Ein KundeThe Literary Review mentions this book's compassion and intellectual energy. While I have no argument with the latter, "compassion" is the very antithesis of this dark and brooding story. A CHANGE OF CLIMATE revolves around the lives of Ralph and Anna Eldred, two British missionaries who, in

their endeavor to make living easier for others, endure tremendous cruelty and heartbreak through the same grace of God. The story spits in the face of compassion. It is a fable with the moral "no good deed goes unpunished." Though Mantel is obviously a gifted writer, I did not find this book to be enthralling. It was more a bleak outlook on the way of the world; one of which I'd rather not be reminded.2 von 2 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A Change of Climate evokes a climate for change.Von Mary WhippleWhen asked, rhetorically, by his sister, "Whatever happened to the dinosaurs?", Ralph, the main character responds, "Their habitat altered...A change of climate." In his rebellion against his parents, their closed, religiously fundamentalist point of view, and his father's financial blackmailing regarding his career choices, Ralph intentionally changes his physical habitat and his climate by escaping to South Africa with his bride. Working as a lay person at a mission and vigorously opposing apartheid, Ralph and Anna eventually are imprisoned, then banished to Bechuanaland, now Botswana. It is here that the savagery which creates a permanent and terrible climate in their marriage occurs, a savagery not limited to one race as Ralph and Anna had perceived in South Africa. As the story bounces from the present in England back twenty years to Africa, the reader lives through the vivid and terrible African experiences and simultaneously sees how they have permeated the lives of these good, but often naive, people. Both Ralph and Anna have rejected the traditional religion of their parents in favor of doing good deeds in their family lives and through a social service trust. But as Ralph's uncle James points out, "There is nothing so appallingly hard...as the business of being human." While the reader cheers as James grows and eventually embraces life, s/he also fears for Anna, who remains emotionally closed, despite her good deeds, fearful that she "should lose everything, one of these days." As the events resolve themselves and the "competition in goodness" comes to an end, we see real humans trying to put aside the petrified past and to change the climate of their lives, and we will, perhaps, evaluate our own lives: How human are we? Or are we dinosaurs?2 von 2 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Buried Secrets, Fine Writing, Brave and Complex ThemeVon Ein KundeA lot of American readers may be put off by the rather dryly literate writing style of this British writer, but I would urge them to stick it out for a deep and true read, with an ending that is uplifting, but as painful and complex as life itself. As one who grew up with the benefit of an idealistic liberal education and travelled the world widely and deeply, and like the protagonists of this book found that the almost defied third world races are no less free of the capacity to do evil than white westerners, this novel had a brave ring of truth. In fact, it is so against the grain that I'm surprised it wasn't condemned by the liberal elites who write most of the book reviews. A different view of the missionary experience, as well as Mantel's classical prose and subtly unfolding plot make an interesting antidote to the simplistically politically correct and gimmickally narrated bestseller, Barbara Kingsolver's "The Poisonwood Bible." This is one of the few books I've read in recent years that had something new and original to say.

KurzbeschreibungFrom the double Man Booker prize-winning author of *Wolf Hall*, and *Bring Up the Bodies* this is an epic yet subtle family saga about broken trusts and buried secrets.Ralph and Anna Eldred live in the big Red House in Norfolk, raising their four children and devoting their lives to charity. The constant flood of good souls and sad cases, children plucked from the squalor of the East London streets for a breath of fresh countryside air, hides the growing crises in their own family, the disillusionment of their children, the fissures in their marriage. Memories of their time as missionaries in South Africa and Botswana, of the terrible African tragedies that have shaped the rest of their lives, refuse to be put to rest and threaten to destroy the fragile peace they have built for themselves and their children.This is a breathtakingly intelligent novel that asks the most difficult questions. Is there anything one can never forgive? Is tragedy ever deserved? Can you ever escape your own past? A literary family saga written with the skill and subtlety of a true master, this is Hilary Mantel at her best.From Kirkus sAcclaimed British novelist Mantel (*An Experiment in Love*, 1996, etc.; see below) offers a provocative take on men and women of goodwill side-swiped by unsuspected evil and betrayal in places as far apart as Botswana and England. The story, moving between the past and recent present, is a cautionary, compassionate tale of a model family almost destroyed by its secrets. At the start, Ralph Eldred has just learned that sister Emma, a doctor, has had a longtime affair with the married and recently deceased Felix. Ralph, whose life has been spent helping "sad cases and good souls," is shaken by this "failure of self-knowledge." As a young man, his wealthy and devout father forced him to give up his plans to study geology and to work instead at the inner-city mission. When offered a posting to South Africa, Ralph accepted because it would take him far away from his father. He marries Anna, as principled as he, and they settle into mission life. It's now the early 1960s, apartheid's apogee, and the two routinely confront police brutality and corruption. They become activists, eventually find themselves imprisoned, and then, released from jail, accept a remote posting in Botswana, where Anna gives birth to the twins Kit and Matthew. Later, a malevolent servant stabs Ralph and abducts the twins. Only Kit is found. Back in England, Ralph and Anna have more children but never tell them about the lost baby. Kit, however, now a college graduate, is troubled by dreams of Africa; Anna, still heartsore and angry over losing her child, feels alienated from Ralph; son Julian is adrift, and Ralph himself finds his charity work meaningless. He himself now slips into an affair, discovery of which finally provides a necessary catharsis. Emotions are vented, secrets revealed, and the family's love

and faith are found to be stronger than suspected. A subtle exploration in vividly detailed settings of the complex workings of the hearts of well-intentioned people. Intelligent and moving. -- Copyright 1997, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved. Pressestimmen`A beautifully crafted novel' Guardian`There are very few novels that not only bristle with ideas but leave you asking questions about those ideas, again and again, your world turned upside down. Mantel has managed to do this.' Sunday Times`The best book she's written ... She writes about punishing subjects so freshly it is as if they had never been written about before.' Observer`It has the tension of a first-rate thriller and the breadth of a family saga ... Its compassion and its intellectual energy mark her as the novelist of her generation who will achieve a lasting greatness.' Literary `A complex and highly intelligent portrayal of injustice, bereavement and the loss of faith ... Hilary Mantel has created that rare thing, a page-turner with a profound moral dimension.' Daily Telegraph`A work of exquisite craftsmanship that asks enormous questions.' Independent