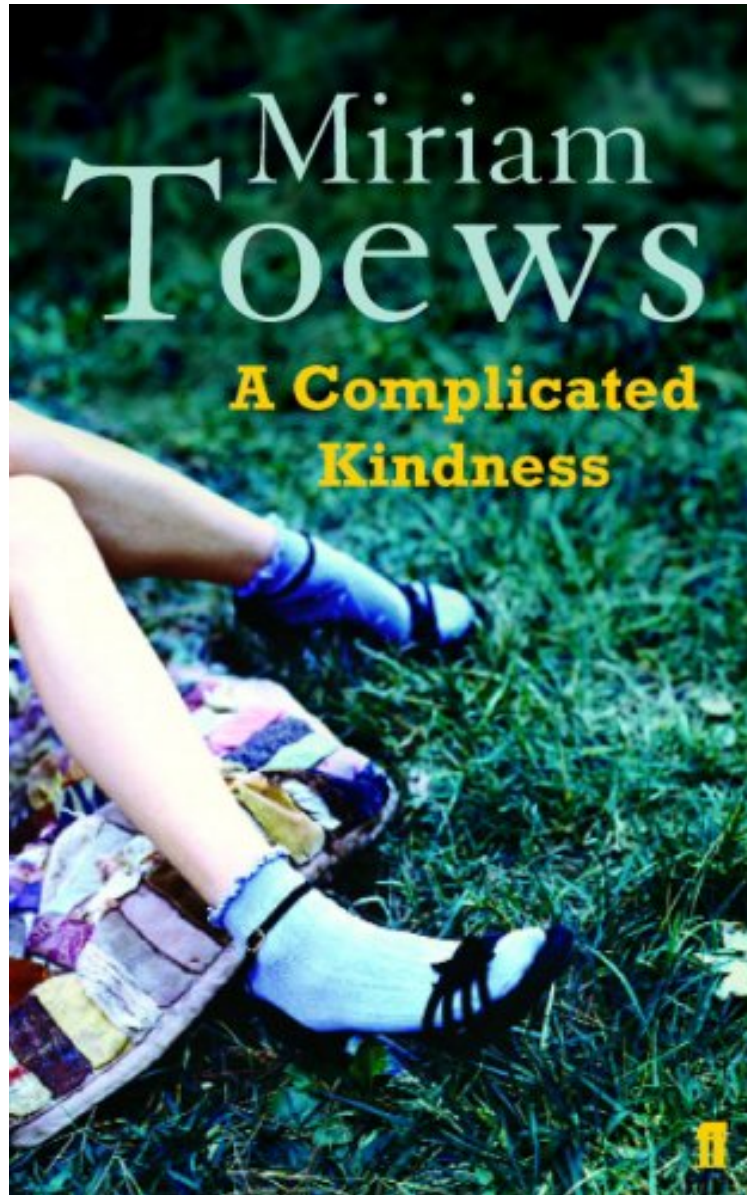


[Pdf free] A Complicated Kindness (English Edition)

## A Complicated Kindness (English Edition)

*Von Miriam Toews*

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**Von Miriam Toews : A Complicated Kindness (English Edition)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Complicated Kindness (English Edition):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Unter MennonitenVon \_Buchliebhaber\_Nomi lebt mit ihrem Vater in einer Mennonitengemeinde in der kanadischen

Provinz. Eine Gemeinschaft, in der jeder jeden kennt, gerne in die nicht allzu weit entfernte Verwandtschaft eingehiratet wird und der örtliche Schlachthof die einzige berufliche Perspektive bietet. In der alles Moderne argwöhnisch beugt wird, strenge religiöse Regeln herrschen und so ziemlich alles verboten ist, was Spaß macht. Kein Wunder, dass ihre aufmüpfige ältere Schwester und ihre lebenslustige Mutter schon vor Jahren davongelaufen sind. Und auch Nomi träumt von einem Leben in der Großstadt...Miriam Toews ist selbst in einer Mennonitengemeinde aufgewachsen und verarbeitet in diesem Roman Erinnerungen an ihre Kindheit und Jugend. Über Mennoniten wusste ich bisher recht wenig, und die Thematik hat mich so interessiert, dass ich parallel zu der Buchlektüre noch ein bisschen im Internet darüber recherchiert habe. Ich war ziemlich überrascht, dass diese Religionsgemeinschaft durchaus auch hier in Deutschland vertreten ist. Die Bilder, die traditionelle Mennoniten zeigen, haben mich ein wenig an die Amish People erinnert (lange Röhre, Hut, Pferdekutschen usw.). Das Buch ist gut geschrieben, und dank der (für mich) neuen Thematik habe ich die erste Hälfte des Romans mit großem Interesse und sehr gern gelesen. Besonders Nomi's Erzählungen über ihre Mutter Trudie und deren humorvoll-rebellische Haltung gegenüber der Kirchengemeinde haben mir gut gefallen. Leider hat sich in der zweiten Hälfte etwas Langeweile eingeschlichen. Das, was Nomi an ihrem Leben am meisten beklagt - Ereignislosigkeit und Eintönigkeit - macht sich auch irgendwann in der Geschichte breit. Die zweite Hälfte habe ich deshalb als recht schwer empfunden, und ich war ganz froh, dass das Buch ziemlich schnell ist. Insgesamt ein guter Einblick in das Leben der Mennoniten, der phasenweise auch recht unterhaltsam ist. 1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Interesting setting and story Von KrankyKat This novel is autobiographical and relates the narrator's growing up in a Mennonite community in Canada. Because I loved Toews' novel *The Flying Troutmans* and since I'm very interested in the psychology of living with strict religion, I bought this novel. It illustrates well the closed off world which the characters inhabit and the longing of the young (as well as the not so young) to break away from it. The relationships and their difficulties are drawn with care and tenderness. I found the book interesting, but all in all too long and not as touching as *The Flying Troutmans*. It was no page turner for me but I did not have a hard time finishing it either. Recommended if you are interested in religious sects and fundamentalism, also a great reminder of what it's like to be an adolescent.

Kurzbeschreibung A work of fierce originality and brilliance, Miriam Toews' novel explores the ties that bind families together and the forces that tear them apart. It is the world according to Nomi Nickel, a heartbreakingly bewildered and wry young woman trapped in a small Mennonite town that seeks to set her on the path to righteousness and smother her at the same time. 'Half of our family, the better-looking half, is missing,' Nomi tells us at the beginning of *A Complicated Kindness*. Left alone with her father Ray, her days are spent piecing together the reasons her mother Trudie and her sister Tash have gone missing, and trying to figure out what she can do to avoid a career at Happy Family Farms, a chicken abattoir on the outskirts of East Village - not the neighbourhood in Manhattan where Nomi most wants to live but the small town in southern Manitoba. East Village is ministered by Hans, Nomi's pious uncle, otherwise known as The Mouth. As Nomi gets to the bottom of the truth behind her mother's and sister's disappearances, she finds herself on a direct collision course with her uncle and the only community she has ever known. In this funny, compassionate and moving novel, Miriam Toews has created a character who will stay in the hearts of readers long after they've put the book down. From Publishers Weekly A 16-year-old rebels against the conventions of her strict Mennonite community and tries to come to terms with the collapse of her family in this insightful, irreverent coming-of-age novel. In bleak rural Manitoba, Nomi longs for her older sister, Tash ("she was so earmarked for damnation it wasn't even funny"), and mother, Trudie, each of whom has recently fled fundamentalist Christianity and their town. Her gentle, uncommunicative father, Ray, isn't much of a sounding board as Nomi plunges into bittersweet memory and grapples with teenage life in a "kind of a cult with pretend connections to some normal earthly conventions." Once a "curious, hopeful child" Nomi now relies on biting humor as her life spins out of control she stops attending school, shaves her head and wanders around in a marijuana-induced haze while Ray sells off most of their furniture, escapes on all-night drives and increasingly withdraws into himself. Still, she and Ray are linked in a tender, if fragile, partnership as each slips into despair. Though the narration occasionally unravels into distracting stream of consciousness, the unsentimental prose and the poignant character interactions sustain reader interest. Bold, tender and intelligent, this is a clear-eyed exploration of belief and belonging, and the irresistible urge to escape both. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist \*Starred\* Sixteen-year-old Nomi Nichol is a Mennonite, which, she wryly observes, "is the most embarrassing sub-sect of people to belong to if you're a teenager." Because Mennonites shun modern ways, Nomi's repressively fundamentalist community on the plains of Manitoba is a tourist attraction for Americans searching "for a glimpse backwards in time." Half of Nomi's family, "the better-looking half" as she puts it, is missing. Her older sister has fled the stifling strictures of their hometown, while her mother has also vanished after having been excommunicated by her own brother, the local minister, whom Nomi dubs "The Mouth of Darkness." That leaves the 16-year-old to look after her gentle, bewildered father and to deal with her own loneliness and persistent memories of

how her family came undone. For Nomi, coping becomes an exercise in increasingly rebellious, sometimes self-destructive behavior, punctuated by pot-fuelled fantasies of escaping to New York to become a roadie for Lou Reed. Canadian author Toews, who grew up in a similar community, raises a number of fascinating, beautifully dramatized questions about the toll unquestioning faith can take on the human spirit. Her episodic, highly introspective first novel--part of an emerging subgenre of crossover adult books that might have been published as YA--maintains a careful balance between hilarity and heartbreak that most readers will find unforgettable. Michael Cart Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved