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Von William Faulkner

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Von William Faulkner : Absalom, Absalom! (Vintage Classics) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Absalom, Absalom! (Vintage Classics):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen7 von 7 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Of Fate, Slavery, the South, Pride, and Story-TellingVon Donald MitchellReview Summary: Absalom, Absalom! is a book that you can easily underestimate. Your persistence will be rewarded with pleasure if you are patient, and assume that something magnificent will appear that is different from what you expect. The story is a cross between a Greek

tragedy, King Lear, and the oral tradition of story-telling. As such, it strikes the deepest chords of human connection and ambition. The primary settings are Mississippi and the West Indies from the Antebellum period through Reconstruction and into the early 20th century. The themes touch deeply on Southern tradition, slavery, and social class. This is a challenging book to read, and will appeal primarily to those who like difficult books that are full of allusions. For most, having read other Faulkner novels will make this one easier to access and understand. As *I Lay Dying* is a good precursor for this novel.

Reader Caution: A six-letter word beginning with "n" to describe people of Afro-American descent is used frequently in this book in ways that will offend many people. The use of the word is consistent with the beliefs and the historical moment of the characters who utter it, and does not reflect racist beliefs by the author.

Review: *Absalom, Absalom!* is certainly one of America's greatest tragic novels. Thomas Sutpen arrives in Jefferson, Mississippi in middle age with a burning desire to establish a magnificent plantation and a dynasty with a leading role in society. To accomplish this, all he has available is his passion, a French architect, some slaves from Haiti, and a huge tract of land that he has somehow swindled out of the Native Americans. From the mud, his dream rises. But his very determination to accomplish his dream causes counterforces to rise that drag his dream into the mud again. The story is told in a most unusual fashion. Almost every major character's perspective is captured through the device of recounting prior conversations with other major characters. Most of the characters are missing major elements of the "why" of the story, so you need to keep adding the stories together to begin to understand what was happening beneath the surface. The book eventually relies on a conversation with a nonparticipant in the events to explore why they might have occurred, where no direct evidence is available. In this last regard, the book takes on a little of the mystery-solving tradition involving logic that Sir Arthur Conan Doyle used with Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson. This conversation-reporting story-telling device makes the book both remarkably recursive and potentially maddening. If you are like me, you will wonder at times what else could possibly be covered in the book. And then, Faulkner pulls new dimensions to his story out of the hat. Faulkner's point is that we can almost always know "what" has happened in terms of major events, but without great investigation and thought we are unlikely to ever understand the "why." You come to appreciate this point by seeing your understanding of Sutpen's life change as you learn more about him and the events that preceded his arrival in Jefferson. I ultimately came away intrigued and inspired by the book's structure. You could easily have the opposite reaction. The book is a rich source of concepts and observations about the contradictions inherent in slavery and Southern notions of gentle behavior during the 18th and 19th centuries. You only find these contradictions as well laid out in Thomas Jefferson's writings and biographies. After you read this book, you should be in a good position to ask yourself some basic questions about what you are trying to accomplish with your personal life and your work. Are your goals any more worthy than Sutpen's? What dangers are you exposed to as a result of having this focus? In what ways are you an innocent in your pursuits? In seeking respect and esteem, remember to give it to others even more generously!

6 von 6 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Should be the second Faulkner book you read

Von Clarice E. Smith (csmith1@wirefire.com) I've read all of Faulkner's work and I truly believe that those who find 'Absalom' hard to comprehend should start by first reading 'The Unvanquished'. It gives one a more comfortable, easier and firmer foothold in Yoknapatawpha County so that when "Absalom, Absalom" is read, one will better understand what the author is telling us....how it felt to BE southern at Quentin's time. All the promise and past glory, all the self-destruction and inner demise is there. "Intruder in the Dust" should be the third book to be read. Those three give you a priceless inside track into the works of Faulkner. His short stories, "A Rose for Emily" and "Tomorrow" show both sides of the southern social strata. These stories are both masterpieces yet easy for the new Faulkner reader to appreciate. Although "The Sound and the Fury" is used in many colleges as an introduction to Faulkner, I feel that choice is not good. That particular book, although popular with many, was far from his best work. His style went awry there, in my opinion. The heaviness of the dialect and the time in which the story took place is no way to introduce anyone to this marvelous writer. But of his complete body of work, "Absalom, Absalom" is the magnificent star and nobody should deny themselves the opportunity of reading this great contribution to American literature.

10 von 11 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Ein Klassiker der Weltliteratur

Von Carl-heinrich Bock William Faulkners Bcher gelten als ausgesprochen anspruchsvolle Lektre. Der Roman Absalom, Absalom ist 1936 zum ersten Mal erschienen. Jetzt wurde er in einer kongenialen bersetzung von Nikolaus Stingl ins Deutsche bertragen und vom Rowohlt Verlag im September 2015 editiert. Die Bcher von Faulkner gibt es seit den dreier Jahren. Er gilt als bedeutendster US-amerikanischer Romancier des 20. Jahrhunderts. Den Nobelpreis fr Literatur erhielt er 1950, rckwirkend fr das Jahr 1949. Mit den Arbeiten fr den Roman Absalom, Absalom begann er 1934. Es gehrt zu den am wenigsten gelesenen Bchern von Faulkner. Absalom war einer der jngeren Shne von Knig David, der 1000 v. Chr. gelebt hat und der versucht hat seinen Vater zu strzen, obwohl er von seinem Vater geliebt wurde. Und in diesem Roman wird nun die Geschichte der Familie Sutpen, in der Zeit des amerikanischen Brgerkriegs, mit der biblischen Erzhlung des Alten Testaments verwoben. Die Erzhlperspektive, in der aus verschiedenen Sichtweisen die Geschichte des Plantagenbesitzers Thomas Sutpen beschrieben wird, ist sthetisch unglaublich komplex. Die ersten hundert Seiten sind deshalb unglaublich anstrengend, weil man bei den vielen Erzhlbetrachtungsweisen erst einmal herausfinden muss, wer was und von wem erzählt wird. Da beweist Faulkner was ein Roman wirklich kann, wenn er auf diese Weise 100 Jahre amerikanische Geschichte erzählt, die der

Leser erst begreift, nachdem er das Puzzle der Ereignissegmente detektivisch ermittelt und anschließend zusammengebaut hat. Zum Plot: Der Protagonist Thomas Sutpen stammt aus einer verarmten weißen Familie. Nach der Heirat mit der wohlhabenden Haitianerin Eulalia Bon taucht er plötzlich mit einigen Hundert schwarzen Sklaven in dem fiktiven Yoknapatawpha County auf, das von Faulkners realem Wohnort im Mississippi Gebiet inspiriert wurde und in dem fast alle Faulkner Romane und Kurzgeschichten angesiedelt sind. Er gründet ein Gut, baut eine Plantage auf und errichtet ein riesiges Herrenhaus. Dann heiratet er ein zweites Mal eine Frau aus einer der scheinbar angesehensten Familien. Scheinbar, weil das auch ein Rätsel des Buches ist. Er zeugt zwei Kinder Judith und Henry. Er hat außerdem einen Sohn aus erster Ehe, Charles. Henry lernt seinen Halbbruder kennen, bringt ihn mit nach Hause. Der verliebt sich in Judith, will sie heiraten. Das wäre ein Inzest. Kurz vor Ausbruch des Bürgerkriegs haben wir die großen Themen der Südstaaten beisammen, nämlich Blutschande, Obsession der Dynastie und die Rassen Obsession und natürlich das Niederlagengefühl, das der amerikanische Süden nicht überwinden kann. Nach Ende des Krieges kommt es zu einem Streit zwischen Charles und Henry, der damit endet, dass Henry seinen Halbbruder erschiet. Auslöser war nicht die Blutschande, sondern der Umstand, dass in Charles Adern Negerblut vorhanden war. Nach der Tat flieht Henry. Thomas Sutpen verliert seinen Stammbaum und sieht sich so, wegen der Rassen Obsession mit dem unausweichlichen Niedergang der Dynastie konfrontiert. Am Ende brennt das Herrenhaus ab. William Faulkner hat eine sehr anspruchsvolle Erzähltechnik, bei der es im Rausch der Sprache zu großen Zeitsprüngen kommt. Das Buch fordert einen aktiven Leser, der mit dieser wahnsinnig mitreißenden, spiralförmigen Erzählweise, die analytisches Lesen ausschließt, zu Recht kommt. Wem es gelingt in diesem Labyrinth von Vor- und Rückblenden nicht durch den Rost zu fallen, der wird mit einem Buch belohnt, dessen Themen vom Archaischsten bis zum politisch Aktuellsten reichen.

Kurzbeschreibung Quentin Compson and Shreve, his Harvard room-mate, are obsessed by the tragic rise and fall of Thomas Sutpen. As a poor white boy, Sutpen was turned away from a plantation owner's mansion by a negro butler. From then on, he was determined to force his way into the upper echelons of Southern society. His relentless will ensures his ambitions are soon realised; land, marriage, children. But in after the chaos of Civil War, secrets from his own past threaten to destroy everything he has worked for. Pressestimmen "The novel in which Faulkner most profoundly and completely says what he has to say about the South and the human condition" (Walter Allen) "For range of effect, philosophical weight, originality of style, variety of characterisation, humour and tragic intensity [Faulkner's Works] are without equal in our time and country" (Robert Penn Warren) "For all his concern with the South, Faulkner was actually seeking out the nature of man. Thus we must turn to him for that continuity of moral purpose which made which made for the greatness of our classics" (Ralph Ellison) "The magnitude of Faulkner's characters lies in their blood and bone and sinew: the exquisite specificity of their human fallibility... Faulkner seemed incapable of separating intimate character from universal truth, and this rough refusal - both humble and defiant - was at the root of his force as a writer... No other American writer has achieved such staggering heights of form" (Boston Globe) "Heart-pinching" (New York Times) Werbetext Faulkner's gripping, dark tale of pride and prejudice in the Deep South