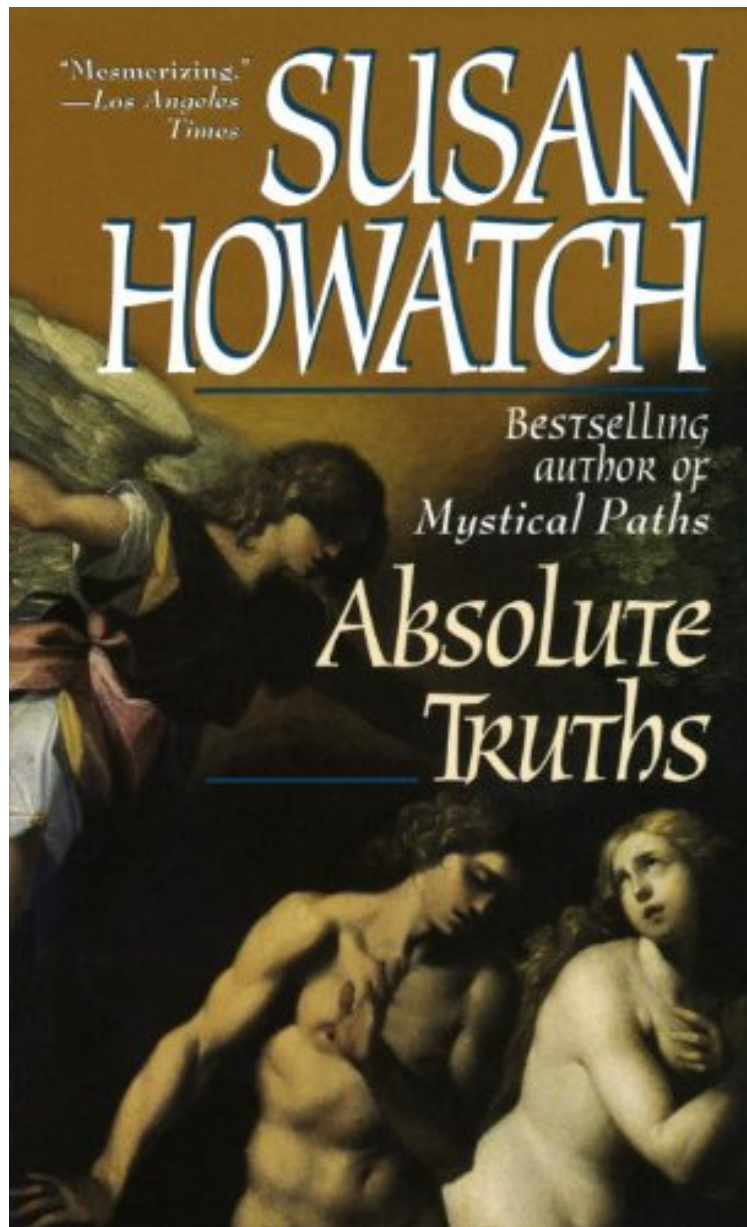


Absolute Truths

Von Susan Howatch

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Von Susan Howatch : Absolute Truths before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Absolute Truths:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Absolute excellence!Von Laura G. CarterThis and every one of Susan Howatch's novels are well worth the time put into them.

They're literate, challenging and dare to explore questions of faith, love, family and loyalty. And while her "potboiler" novels are excellent, DON'T be put off by the 6-volume Church of England series. The characters are engaging and the questions and answers they discover during the traumatic events of their lives and the eventual renewal of their souls took me to philosophical places I'd never been before and forced me to often consider the same issues the characters themselves grappled with. That's what's wrong with people today - they're intellectually lazy and don't want to deal with issues of faith, belief, and the renewing powers of love. However, Ms. Howatch does so with a style and flair and gift with the written word that I can only sit back, read and envy and admire. More! More! 0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. I'd give it six stars if I could! Von Ein Kunde Everyone looking for depth, entertainment and a real spirituality boost should read this book. Everyone looking for an intellectual challenge should read this book. I just have to say it - everyone should read this book! Absolute Truths is actually the sixth book in a series, but like the other five stands fine on its own. It deals with the Church of England and in particular a few specific members of the church, in the 1960's. It deals with what is going on in society, what is going on with "regular" people and what is going on inside the Church of England and with its members. It focuses on one particular Bishop, Charles Ashworth, and shows him faults and all as a regular human being as he deals with the ups and downs in his personal, professional and spiritual life. There are terrific discussions of religious, spiritual, artistic and socio-economic ideals. This book will stretch your mind into thinking things you never thought would enter your grey matter. It's highly recommended by most of the people I know that have read it. And it's also recommended that you read the other books in this series. This book will change your life. 0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. 10 Von Ein Kunde I simply cannot think of another author who so deftly weaves an entertaining plot line with a strong moral tone. The result is wondrous. This is a story of a man who must grapple with modern challenges to the faith he has upheld all his life. Written with grace and elegance, this novel accurately captures the essence of human nature. As heroes of fiction are perennially discovering, the world and its inhabitants cannot be neatly divided into categories of black and white. And although this theme has been explored since the beginning of literature, no author in recent memory has been able to do so with such an able grasp of language, pathos, and humor. This book illuminates answers to the eternal questions of existence, God, and the capacity of the human heart.

Kurzbeschreibung "A SKILLFUL BLEND OF CHARACTER, PHILOSOPHY AND NARRATIVE. . . Formidable personalities embroil themselves in ruthless power struggles that would make a corporate raider blush." --The Washington Post Book World It is 1965, and Charles Ashworth has attained the plum position of bishop of Starbridge, an honor that keeps him in a heady whirl of activity that would exhaust the most seasoned corporate executive. With the invaluable support of his minions and his attractive, unsinkable wife, Ashworth stands against the amorality and decadence of the age--"Anti-Sex Ashworth." He slays his opponents by being a tough, efficient, confident churchman, the torments of his past long since dead and buried. And then the unexpected, the unthinkable, strikes. Suddenly Ashworth finds himself staring into the chasm of all the lies he's been telling himself for years: about his marriage, his children, even his views on the Church. And as he suspects his old nemesis and dean, Neville Aysgarth, of drinking too much, of financial chicanery, of--God forbid--having an affair, Ashworth discovers to his horror that he is tempted to commit the very acts that he has so publicly denounced. . . . "ENTHRALLING. . . Rich, dense, almost indecently entertaining." --San Jose Mercury News "POWERFUL. . . MIRACULOUS." --Booklist (starred review) SELECTED BY THE BOOK-OF-THE-MONTH CLUB From the Paperback edition. From Booklist The sixth and final part of Howatch's Church of England series is a powerful advocate of the whole, matching the drama and emotional reach of Glamorous Powers (1988) and Ultimate Prizes (1989). Charles Ashworth, the narrator of the first in the series (Glittering Images, 1987), is even more attractive as an aging intellectual bishop struggling to come to terms with the very un-Christian 1960s. His attempt to maintain discipline, faith, and a relationship with God in the midst of a troubling secular world goes right to the heart of the Howatch project in these six magnificent novels. There's really very little like this work in modern literature. There are hints of Trollope, hints of C. S. Lewis, in these pages, but nowhere else does one discover the distinctive genius of Anglican theology--intelligent, commonsensical, optimistic--so movingly wrapped in the heartbreaking dramas of husbands, wives, fathers, children, and spiritual guides. At the center of each novel is a tragedy, beyond which is an epiphany the narrator cannot quite grasp. Charles' tragedy is the loss of his closest companion, but, of course, his problems go much deeper. The shield of his glittering image, shattered once before, six novels ago, is shattered again. But Howatch's novels are not so much about tragedy as about the way ordinary men and women struggle through humility and forgiveness toward the far horizon of redemption. Little more can be said about this miraculous cycle of novels. These are works that deserve to endure well beyond the troubled age that spawned them. Stuart Whitwell From Library Journal This final novel in a double trilogy about the Church of England in the 1930s and the 1960s is a splendid conclusion to the series (begun with Glittering Images, LJ 6/1/87) and a powerful combination of psychological insight, theological depth, and storytelling ability. Howatch simultaneously provides her reader with both marvelous entertainment and genuine insight into the human condition.

The narrator for this volume is Charles Ashworth, now Bishop of Starbridge, who staunchly, even self-righteously, defends traditional values. This continues until crisis-and his wife's journal-reveal to him the "shadow" side of his own life and its effect on his two sons; his dean, Stephen Aysgarth; other clergy; several women; and himself. The end is phoenix-like, as characters rise from their own ashes, yet never unrealistic. Highly recommended for all libraries. Carolyn M. Craft, Longwood Coll., Farmville, Va. Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc.