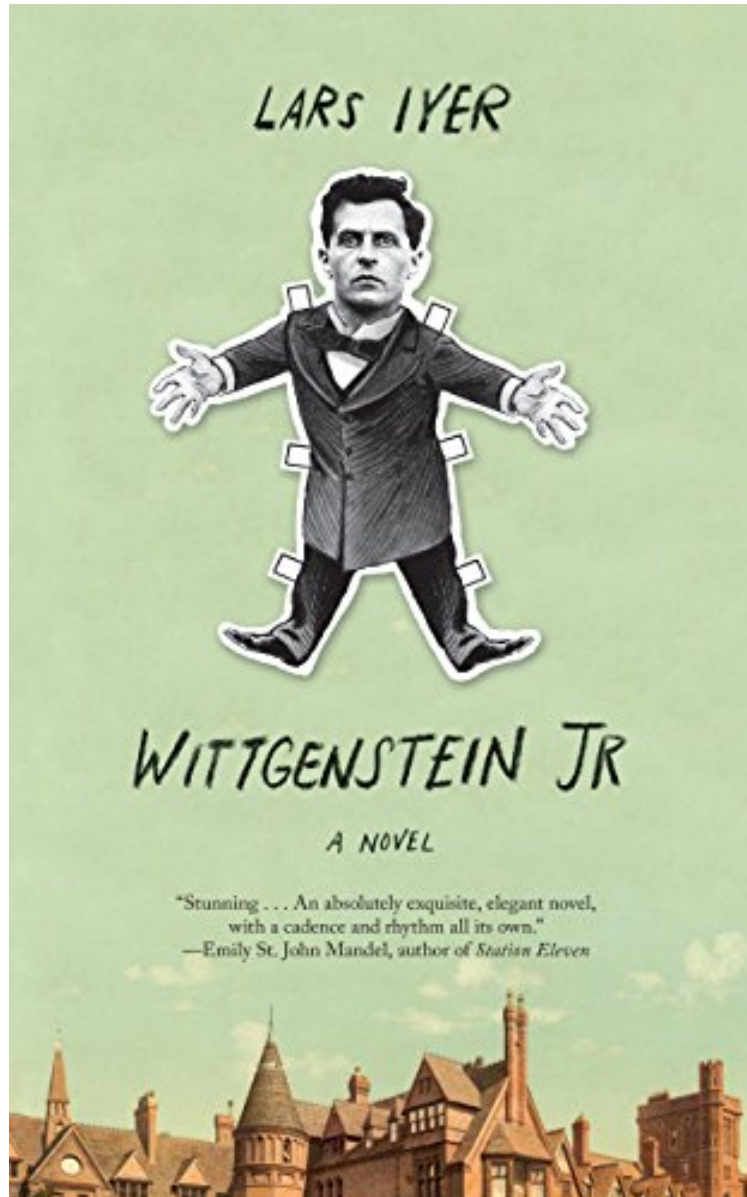


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## Wittgenstein Jr

Von Lars Iyer

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**Von Lars Iyer : Wittgenstein Jr** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Wittgenstein Jr:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Confusing tribute to the real WittgensteinVon Alfred J. KwakWhat, a novel? It is easily the book with the most

question marks I have ever read. Real novelists use question marks sparingly. Its lay-out resembles poetry. Leaving blank space on each page is also rare in real novels: green novelists like Garcia Marquez (GM) in 'Autumn of the Patriarch' and Javier Marias (JM) saved small forests, filling every available space on a page and ignoring the full stop (GM) or like JM, writing solid blocks of text, rarely indented. Therefore, Lars Iyer (LI) is neither a novelist nor an eco-friendly author. That's logic. This book, not a novel, records the (lack of) interaction between a new Cambridge philosophy lecturer, quickly nicknamed Wittgenstein (W) and his rapidly dwindling audience. Twelve remain who do not take notes, because they are asked only questions. They are not properly lectured or tutored, in class or individually in W's rooms or during their many outdoor walks. W's students are baffled by his many questions about thought, logic and philosophy, becoming more desperate as their course progresses. Do they write papers or read for exams? Or is just listening to W's hundreds of assertions and counter-assertions, tonnes of rhetorical questions and endless aphorisms, his paranoia about Cambridge dons, his explanations about his brilliant mathematician brother's suicide at 20, his rants about the Flood that will wipe Cambridge away and Noah's Ark landing on a mountain top and much, much else, enough to secure a degree? W's students are unable to fathom what logic, pure reason and philosophy mean. Some rather go for sex and rock roll, new drugs and near-fatal alcoholic mixtures. No one understands or is really interested in W's lectures, warnings, philosophies, except Peters, the farm boy student and part narrator... This book (never a novel) exudes superior knowledge, but is very repetitious and lacks flow. It failed my own key criterion: 'What's on the next page?' Iyer is sometimes acrobatic with language, but never made me smile or laugh aloud.

**Kurzbeschreibung** The writer Hari Kunzru says made me feel better about the Apocalypse than I have in ages is back with a hilarious coming-of-age love story The unruly undergraduates at Cambridge have a nickname for their new lecturer: Wittgenstein Jr. He's a melancholic, tormented genius who seems determined to make them grasp the very essence of philosophical thought. But Peters a working-class student surprised to find himself among the elites soon discovers that there's no place for logic in a Cambridge overrun by posh boys and picnicking tourists, as England's greatest university is collapsing under market pressures. Such a place calls for a derangement of the senses, best achieved by lethal homemade cocktails consumed on Cambridge rooftops, where Peters joins his fellows as they attempt to forget about the void awaiting them after graduation, challenge one another to think so hard they die, and dream about impressing Wittgenstein Jr with one single, noble thought. And as they scramble to discover what, indeed, they have to gain from the experience, they realize that their teacher is struggling to survive. For Peters, it leads to a surprising turn and for all of them, a challenge to see how the life of the mind can play out in harsh but hopeful reality. Combining his trademark wit and sharp brilliance, Wittgenstein Jr is Lars Iyer's most assured and ambitious novel yet as impressive, inventive and entertaining as it is extraordinarily stirring. **Pressestimmen** [Iyer] is a deeply elegiac satirist... He manages to both send up intellectual life and movingly lament its erosion. "New York Times" Longlisted for the Folio Prize Outstanding... [Iyer] appears to be in the process of creating his own personal genre, one in which the workings of his mind are on display far more brilliantly than anything as piddling as a plot... Almost every individual page is a pleasure, and that is more than enough reason to keep reading him. "Daily Beast" An absolutely exquisite, elegant novel, with a cadence and rhythm all its own. "Emily St. John Mandel's A Year in Reading, The Millions" One of the funniest books of the year, this philosophical bildung shows that intellectuality can be poignant, especially when it's couched within a campus novel. "Flavorwire, 50 Best Independent Fiction and Poetry Books of 2014" Stunning. Wittgenstein Jr. is Iyer's strongest book to date. He has again managed to write a book that's funny, unexpected, and profound, and his prose is suffused with a calm beauty. "Emily St. John Mandel, The Millions" It's a triumph that Iyer pulls off this high-wire act so brilliantly. Its irreverent, smart, and off-kilter. "John Yargo, The Millions" One of BuzzFeed's Most Beautiful Book Covers of 2014 One of GQ's 8 Books You Need to Know in September A funny, smart, and somewhat insane campus novel, perfect for anyone's back-to-school hijinks. "Flavorwire, 10 Must-Reads for September" Iyer's prose is never any less stark than it can be, building a sharp momentum that brings the boys and their professor to a surprising yet fitting conclusion. "AskMen.com, Recommended Reading for September" Depression, sadness, gloom--these three themes permeate the novel, and the subtle prose conveys them with deftness. "PopMatters" Meanwhile, the novel is in crisis and I intend that as a compliment. In other words, the books that are asking what a novel might be [including] Lars Iyer's Wittgenstein Jr are by far the best. "Gaby Wood's Best Books of 2014, The Telegraph (UK)" Wittgenstein Jr really is very good entertainment -- enjoyable reading, with just the right touch of gravity, good fun, but with a sense of the almost-profound in the shadows. "Complete Iyer's lyrical novel unfolds like a prose poem, in fragments and scenes, compressed images and emotion, with rhythm and repetition that pull the reader through the novel... It is at turns a novel about England, the university, youth, madness, philosophy, love, which, when summed up, becomes a coming-of-age novel. "Hamlet Hub" Fascinating... A doomy, hilarious, thoughtful Cambridge comedy with a tone somewhere between Philosophical Investigations and Porterhouse Blue, as a bunch of dreadful modern undergrads struggle to make sense of a tragic, saintlike tutor who is not Wittgenstein, or not exactly. "Sunday Telegraph (UK), Best Books of

2014 Superbly done Iyer wins on laughs. the Guardian (UK) One of the Telegraph's Best Novels of the Year! One of Britain's best new voices. "The Bookseller (UK), Books of the Year A twitchy philosophy professor arrives at Cambridge on the brink of either total enlightenment or a mental breakdown. His new students, a hapless bunch of over-privileged boozers and junkies, turn up to class to observe their tutors rambling, paranoid disintegration. All ends well though, with an unexpected spot of non-theoretical romance. Verso (UK), Books of the Year It isn't really a novel, or not only a novel. It's more interesting than that Iyer has compiled an idiosyncratic and surprisingly tender paean to love and learning. "Times Literary Supplement Wittgenstein Jr is as much a satire on the contemporary academy as it is an existential novel of ideas. But it is also a love story. Ultimately it's a novel about the idea of philosophy, about what Wittgenstein's students call 'the romance of learning' and that all-consuming erotic yearning for knowledge that you sometimes experience as an undergraduate. It is also an elegiac book." the Telegraph (UK) Iyer's work proposes a visibly different sort of British literature to that which dominates the discourse. The author has set an alternative path for himself, producing books you can read in an afternoon but think about for a year. the Independent (UK) Wittgenstein Jr wants thought to tear out our throats and his fulminations against English lawn dons who facilitate the monetisation of Cambridge provide the angriest, funniest monologues... Right now, Iyer's novel insists, utopian thought remains an urgent necessity. "New Statesman (UK) Written in Iyer's now unmistakable musical prose Wittgenstein Jr provides a wonderful character study of one of the greatest philosophers of modern times, a hilarious take on modern life inside academia, a set of profane t-shirt slogans and a whole lot more besides. "The Quietus His cartoon of campus life is one of the joys of Iyer's new-found freedom." Steve Mitchell more, This Space Without shortcuts, [Iyer] tries to show not only what is lost in the modern world, but what remains what his characters retain even through their despair, because of their despair, even if they don't know it. One might call it hope... Wittgenstein Jr walks a line between cynicism and optimism, between the laughable and the serious... I, for my part, found it hilarious." The Quietus One of Publishers Weekly's Big Indie Books of Fall 2014 "Iyer already has a reputation for combining brainy dialogue with madcap action, but the triumph of his latest (and best) novel is that the cartoon turns out to have real substance." Publishers Weekly, starred review "A droll love story... Existential angst is rarely this entertaining." Kirkus s "With their ingenious blend of philosophical dialogue and vaudevillian verve, Iyer's trilogy, Spurious, Dogma and Exodus, earned a cult following. Wittgenstein, Jr. compacts Iyer's concerns into a single campus novel, set at early 21st-century Cambridge. It should serve as an ideal introduction to his work." The Millions, Most Anticipated Books for the second half of 2014 Praise for Lars Iyer's trilogy: Its wonderful. I'd recommend the book for its insults alone. Sam Jordison, The Guardian Uproarious. New York Times Book I'm still laughing, and its days later. Los Angeles Times Viciously funny. San Francisco Chronicle A tiny marvel... [A] wonderfully monstrous creation. Steven Poole, The Guardian This novel has a seductive way of always doubling back on itself, scorching the earth but extracting its own strange brand of laughter from its commitment to despair. The Believer Kurzbeschreibung The writer Hari Kunzru says made me feel better about the Apocalypse than I have in ages is back with a hilarious coming-of-age love story The unruly undergraduates at Cambridge have a nickname for their new lecturer: Wittgenstein Jr. He's a melancholic, tormented genius who seems determined to make them grasp the very essence of philosophical thought. But Peter, a working-class student surprised to find himself among the elites soon discovers that there's no place for logic in a Cambridge overrun by posh boys and picnicking tourists, as England's greatest university is collapsing under market pressures. Such a place calls for a derangement of the senses, best achieved by lethal homemade cocktails consumed on Cambridge rooftops, where Peter joins his fellows as they attempt to forget about the void awaiting them after graduation, challenge one another to think so hard they die, and dream about impressing Wittgenstein Jr with one single, noble thought. And as they scramble to discover what, indeed, they have to gain from the experience, they realize that their teacher is struggling to survive. For Peter, it leads to a surprising turn and for all of them, a challenge to see how the life of the mind can play out in harsh but hopeful reality. Combining his trademark wit and sharp brilliance, Wittgenstein Jr is Lars Iyer's most assured and ambitious novel yet as impressive, inventive and entertaining as it is extraordinarily stirring.