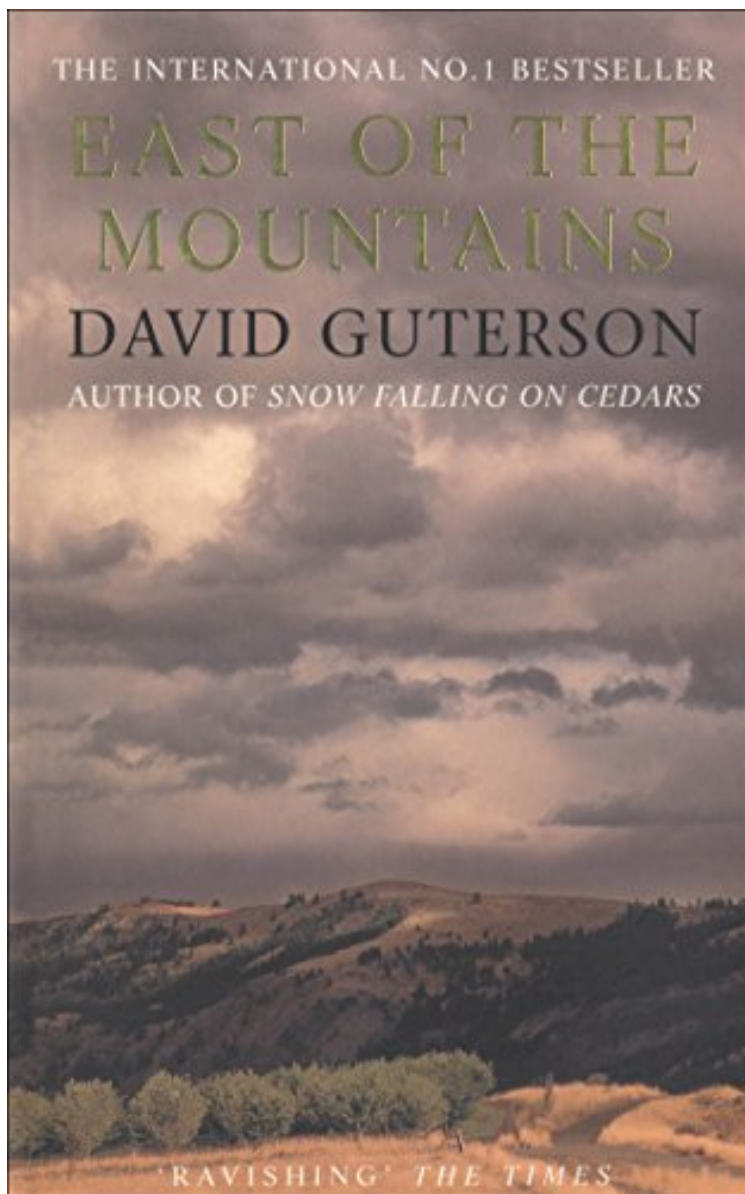


[Free pdf] East of the Mountains

East of the Mountains

Von David Guterson

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Von David Guterson : East of the Mountains before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised East of the Mountains:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen3 von 3 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Well written, thought-provoking storyVon Ellen IsaacsEast of the Mountains is a simple story. Ben Givens, a Seattle-area

doctor in his 70s, learns he has terminal cancer. Knowing the horror of the disease's course, he decides to take his life but to make it look like a hunting accident so his family doesn't have to know about the disease or that he took his life. The book takes place over the next few days as he tries to carry out his plan but is foiled, first by a car accident that ironically nearly takes his life, and then by a series of quests to rescue his hunting dog and to aid some migrant farm workers. He treats these events as diversions that interrupt but don't deter his goal, and yet there is an odd incongruity in his concern about the daily details of life when one would expect him to be letting go. Like Guterson's earlier book, *Snow Falling on Cedars*, this book is beautifully written and a pleasure to read. The main character, Ben Givens, is very richly described. He comes to life both through a series of flashbacks that flesh out his history as well as through the detailed description of his matter-of-fact reactions to the events occurring in the present. The other characters in the book play only small roles, and yet most of them felt real, each one adding interest to the story. Givens has a gift for portraying characters succinctly through choice details. Consider this introduction of the veterinarian who helps save the dog: "The veterinarian was a solid young woman with the sturdy hands and face of a farmgirl and thick, soda-bottle glasses. She spoke in the direct, firm way of the country, with the vigorous practicality and certainty that had remade the sage desert into fields. Kneeling in the parking lot, she examined Rex, and Ben guessed she was not yet thirty, even though her professional manner suggested years of experience. There was something irrepressibly young in her, some vague crack in her doctorly demeanor through which her private self seeped as she introduced herself as Dr. Peterson and made note of his blackened eye without commenting on it." Beyond enjoying the characters and the storytelling, I experienced this book as a reminder to appreciate the dailiness of life, the small interactions with strangers, the minor obstacles we overcome along the way. I especially appreciated Ben's inability to disconnect from these concerns, even when it all should have seemed trivial from the perspective of life and death. I took Guterson to be saying that those details *are* what matters when seen in the right perspective.

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Boring, Boring, Boring Von Michael M. Guterson's previous book, *Snow Falling On Cedars*, was one of my top reads of 1998. I waited with great anticipation for his newest book and was so disappointed. Yes I learned a lot about apples and apple picking but the storyline dragged and the main character was not developed enough.

1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Second Rate Second Effort Von David Lister If you are contemplating picking up *East of the Mountains* in an effort to experience the same type of magic that Guterson weaves in his debut novel, *Snow Falling on Cedars*, you will likely be disappointed. The beauty of *Snow Falling on Cedars*, which consisted of several richly drawn characters, multiple complex and absorbing story lines that intertwine, and dead-on description of the geography that provides the novel's settings is, for the most part, missing in Guterson's second novel. In *East of the Mountains* we have a single well drawn character, Ben Givens; a single, meandering plot line; and, on the bright side, another example of Guterson's considerable talent at bringing a location to life within the context of narrative. The main character has a terminal illness and decides that it is his preference to take his own life before he loses his health. He decides to make the suicide appear as a hunting accident in order to somehow alleviate the pain his family would feel over his suicide. The story is stretched out through a series of misadventures that occur when Ben travels over the mountains into eastern Washington in order to carry out his plans. Basically, this book is about an old guy's misadventures while he goes on a trip. It is difficult to determine whether his ultimate decision regarding the taking of his own life is powered by events (the misadventures during his road trip), people (the people he meets along the way as well as his family), or his own inability to go through with his suicide. A more generous reviewer might be talking about the author's brave use of ambiguity here, but I just didn't see it that way. Guterson draws Ben Givens as a competent, self-sufficient physician who has always known exactly who and what he was--the problem lies in the fact that a self-inflicted shotgun blast doesn't really seem to ring true as a method of suicide for Ben. There is no argument regarding Guterson's skills as a writer--they are considerable. Some judicious editing could have turned this novel into a really great 40-page short story, which is pretty much what it deserved to be.

Kurzbeschreibung When Dr Ben Givens left his Seattle home he never intended to return. It was to be a journey past snow-covered mountains to a place of canyons, sagelands and orchards, where, on the verges of the Columbia River, Ben had entered the world and would now take his leave of it.

de Dieser Titel ist in englischer Sprache. Dieser Text bezieht sich auf die Buchausgabe des Titels *Der Herzchirurg Ben Givens* lebt seit ber einem Jahr allein in Seattle, seine Frau ist gestorben und beim letzten rztlichen Check hat sein Kollege schlechte Nachrichten fr ihn: Er ist unheilbar an Darmkrebs erkrankt. Ben berlegt und entschliet sich schlielich zu einer Reise in das Land seiner Kindheit, von der er nicht vorhat, zurckzukehren. Fr seine Tochter, die nichts von seiner Krankheit wei, soll sein Tod wie ein Unfall aussehen. Er mchte noch einmal die Apfelplantagen und die Salbeiwste am Columbia River sehen und Chukars mit der alten Winchester seines Vaters jagen. Und dann soll Schlu sein -- fr immer. Niemandem will er zur Last fallen und keinesfalls ist er bereit, die zunehmenden Schmerzen des Krebses zu ertragen. Doch auf seiner Reise begegnen ihm Menschen, die ihm durch ihre Art des Daseins vermitteln, da Weiterleben durchaus Sinn hat, und er selbst wird mehrmals gebraucht als Arzt. Einmal wird sein Hund von einer Meute Wolfshunde verletzt, ein andermal leistet er

Geburtshilfe. David Guterson, der bei uns durch seinen Roman *Schnee, der auf Zedern fällt* berühmt wurde, hat seinen bekannten leisen, eindringlichen Tonfall auch in diesem Buch beibehalten. Auffallend ist sein sehr genauer Blick auf die Dinge. Wenn er schildert, wie ein Hund operiert wird, dann vergißt er nicht die Strke des verwendeten Fadens zu erwähnen. Seine Naturschilderungen der Wüste, die Einsamkeit bei der Jagd, der Geruch der Apfelplantagen, das alles sind unvergessliche Passagen des Romans. --Manuela Haselberger.com

David Guterson's first novel, *Snow Falling on Cedars*, was a true ensemble piece, in which even a high-stakes murder trial seemed like a judgment passed on the community at large. In his eloquent second novel, however, the author swings dramatically in the opposite direction. *East of the Mountains* is the tale of a solitary, 73-year-old Seattle widower. A retired heart surgeon, Ben Givens is an old hand at turning isolation to his advantage, both professionally and personally: "When everything human was erased from existence except that narrow antiseptic window through which another's heart could be manipulated--few were as adroit as Dr. Givens." Now, however, Ben has been dealt a problem entirely beyond his powers of manipulation: a diagnosis of terminal cancer. With just a few months to live, he sets out across the Cascades for a hunting trip, planning to take his own life once he reaches the high desert. A car crash en route puts an initial crimp in this suicide mission. But the ailing surgeon presses onward--and begins a simultaneous journey into the past. Between present-tense episodes, which demonstrate Ben's cranky commitment to his own extinction, we learn about his boyhood in Washington's apple country, his traumatic war experience in the Italian Alps, and the beginning of his vocation. Guterson narrates the apple-scented idyll of Ben's childhood in a typically low-key manner--and orchards, of course, are seldom the stuff of melodrama. Still, many of his ambling sentences offer miniature lessons in patience and perception: "They rode back all day to the Columbia, traversed it on the Colockum Ferry, and at dusk came into their orchard tired, on empty stomachs, their hats tipped back, to walk the horses between the rows of trees in a silent kind of procession, and Aidan ran his hands over limbs as he passed them with his horse behind him, the limbs trembling in the wake of his passing, and on, then, to the barn." The wartime episodes, however, are less satisfactory. Clearly Guterson has done his research down to the last stray bullet, but there's a second-hand feeling to the material, which seems less a token of Ben's detachment than the author's. There is, alas, an additional problem. Begin a story with a planned suicide, and there are exactly two possible outcomes. It would be unfair to reveal Ben's fate. But as the forces of life and death yank him one way, then another, Guterson tends to stack the deck--particularly during a bus ride toward the end of the novel, when Ben's fellow passengers appear to have wandered in from a Frank Capra film. Yet *East of the Mountains* remains a beautifully imagined work, in which the landscape reflects both Ben's desperation and his intermittent delight. And Guterson knows from the start what his protagonist learns in painful increments: that "a neat, uncomplicated end" doesn't exist on either side of the mountains. --James Marcus