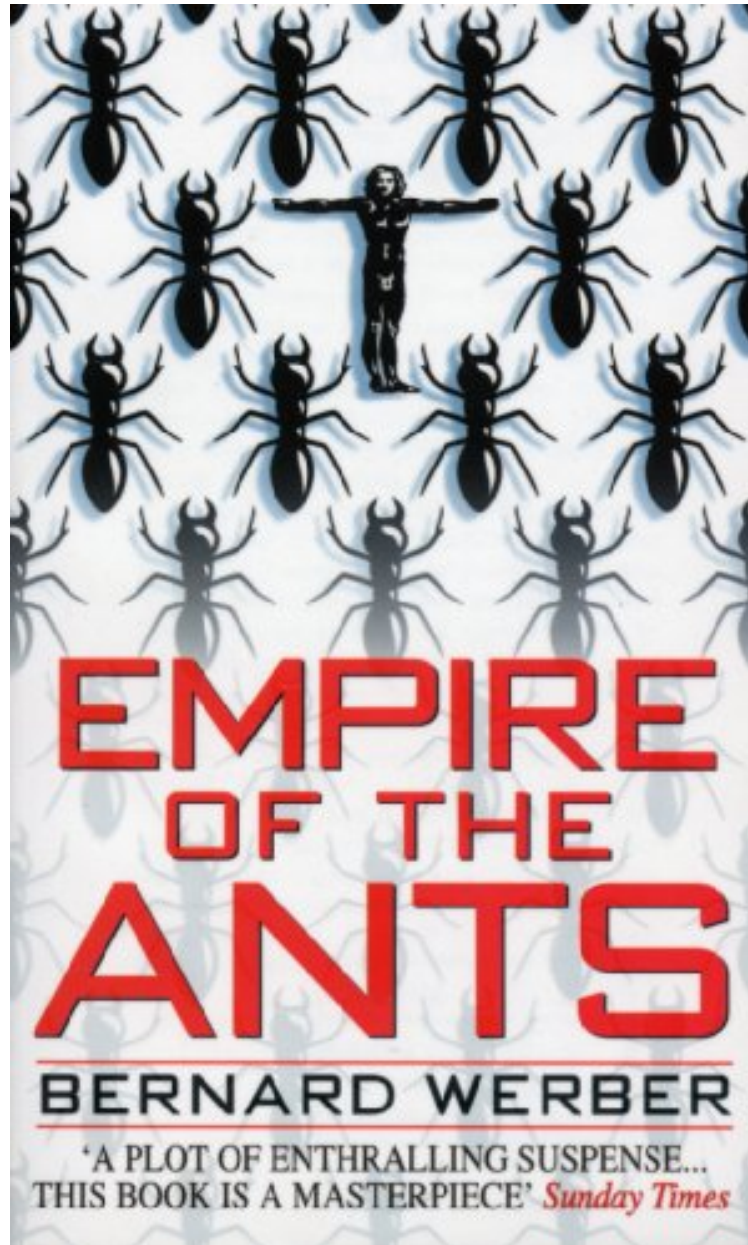


(Ebook pdf) Empire Of The Ants

Empire Of The Ants

Von Bernard Werber

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Von Bernard Werber : Empire Of The Ants before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Empire Of The Ants:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. The

translation lacks, but the open continue to enjoy Von luc Partially because of the harsher criticism, I feel it necessary to address the question of translation. In the original French it is a rich and complex work that may simply not correspond to the structure of the English language. The subtlety of character explored within the nuances of his vocabulary did not (I felt) translate into the English version, but rather became awkward and stilted as the translator tried to state what Werber had implied. Translation aside, the work remains fascinating in its exploration of alternatives to the stereotype of the hive mind. Rather than glorifying or disparaging the idea of a hive mind, Werber examines it as a fascinating contrast to human society, even using it to develop a light critique of certain aspects intrinsic in an individualistic society. The society of ants is thoughtfully constructed giving a balanced view of the positive aspects of a group mentality and some of the elements that are lacking due to the lessened degree of individuality - art, poetry etc. The Wells family, representing the smallest unit of human society, is shown in the process of confronting problems. Simultaneously the hive is shown solving problems. The two methods and ideologies emerge and teach much on the nature of our problem-solving, and reveal interesting ideas concerning human nature. By shifting frequently between the humans and the ants facing similar situations, Werber heightens the suspense, driving the plot, and causing the reader to continue his exploration of the diverse philosophies contained in the book. The shifting is somewhat clumsier in English, but worthwhile still (in French there are many subtle phonetic ties and repeated phrases). Overall an interesting read and thoughtful look at human response to difficulty. END 0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Great fun, insectology and science fiction combined Von jmh I admit that after watching my kid's ant farm, my interest in the life of the ant led me to various research books, and inevitably to this book. Who could not admire this tiny insect's social structure after learning more about them and spending hours watching them interact in a large ant farm. Soon, we began capturing ant colonies and adding males, and hoping to find a queen, which alas, we never did. This book was recommended to me through when I searched for further information about ants. Not sure what to expect, I bought the book and to my delight really enjoyed it. It is one of the more unique stories I have ever read, and probably not a story that would work for everyone. I feel you would enjoy this book more if you are a fan of the insect and nature world. You can appreciate the research the author put into the novel, and I really came away with a higher respect for ants and the ant world in general. The story is a stretch in the imagination, which is what makes it so fun. I have read other reviews where some readers are annoyed that it wasn't a perfect scientific representation of the insect. For me, it was close enough and spurred my whole family's interest further in learning more about them. For the most part, we just sat back and really had fun reading this book and wondering what would it be like to be an ant. 0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Marvelously bizarre Von Glen H Gummess This is, without a doubt, one of the strangest and most bizarre tales I have ever read. I picked it up, expecting to see a novelization of a crude 1977 science fiction movie of the same title that few would remember. Instead, I was treated to a fascinating glimpse into the mind of a "science journalist" (the author, Bernard Werber), whose 15-year study of ants finds expression in this marvelously weird tale. For most of its 253 pages I pondered the connection between two parallel plot structures-- the mystery of a human family, and others, who disappeared down a cellar (which must have been 20 stories deep!), and the quest by a certain number of ants to solve another mystery involving a "secret weapon" that appeared to threaten their colony's existence. By the time I got to the answer to the riddle I realized I was reading science fiction, of a strange Rod Serling type quality, almost fable in its resolution. But it was a wild ride getting to that point. Rightly compared to *Watership Down*, but darker and grimmer, the author confers intelligence on his minuscule characters, but keeps their actions consistent with empirical observations of ant behavior. Well, more or less. You have to suspend your disbelief, clearly, and that's why the book may not go down well with some. I had no problem with the translation from French to English. The ending's open nature evokes a pathos that resonates well, in my view. With all of the elaborate animations that are now appearing in films, from "Babe" to "Titan, A.E.," it seems to me that this story would be ripe for interpretation in a very mature and serious avant-garde screenplay and movie. I hope someone takes the task on and does it right.

Kurzbeschreibung Ants came to this planet long before man. Since then they have developed one of the most intricate civilizations imaginable a civilization of great richness and technological brilliance. During the few seconds it takes you to read this sentence, some 700 million ants will be born on earth Edmond Wells had studied ants for years: he knew of the power which existed in their hidden world. On his death, he leaves his apartment to his nephew Jonathan with one proviso: that he must not descend beyond the cellar door. But when the family's dog escapes down the cellar steps, Jonathan has little alternative but to follow. Innocently he enters the world of the ant, whose struggle for existence forces him to reassess man's place in the cycle of nature. It is an experience that will alter his life forever. Empire of the Ants is an extraordinary achievement. It takes you inside the ants universe and reveals it to be a highly organized world, as complex and relentless as human society and even more brutal. In the early 21st century, in a Paris rapidly turning tropical thanks to global warming, Jonathan Wells tries to get to the bottom (as it turns out, quite literally) of his Uncle Edmond's obsession with ants. Jonathan and his family have been left Edmond's basement

apartment; their benefactor's sole request is, "ABOVE ALL, NEVER GO DOWN INTO THE CELLAR." Meanwhile, in the great city of Bel-o-kan, a reproductive ant, the 327th male, is fighting for survival, having had his olfactory Identikit stripped by traitors of his own tribe. Both males--human and ant--are determined to solve their separate quandaries, and Bernard Werber cleverly juxtaposes their adventures and those of their survivors. Their stories must somehow be linked, but it will be hundreds of imaginative and educational pages before we come upon the solution. Empire of the Ants was first published in France in 1991 and eventually in England in 1996 in Margaret Rocques's spryly formal translation. ("Ants are not especially well-known for their conviviality, especially when advancing in formation, armed to the antennae.") Werber has studied formic civilization for 15 years, and his observations more than pay off. We knew they were industrious little things, but why did no one ever tell us about their powers of invention, accommodation (in both senses of the word!), communication, and above all determination? In fact, as the narrative makes increasingly clear, ants seem to have a lot more going on than the pale pink things stomping around above them, who seem doltish in comparison. Of course, as far as the creepy crawlies are concerned, humans are "so strange you could neither see nor smell them. They appeared suddenly out of the sky and everyone died." Empire of the Ants is by turns frightening and very funny. As more and more humans disappear down the cellar of 3, rue des Sybarites, we come to identify with the six-legged of the world. Werber, too, must have tired of his Homo sapiens, since the ant sections increase in length as the human ones decrease. No matter. Who would miss the perils of the young queen who tries to found her colony on a strange impervious hill--which turns out to be a tortoise--or the hilarious scene in which a spider swathes the 56th female in inescapable silk, only to be distracted first by a mayfly (they have shorter shelf lives than ants, who can be eaten slowly alive over an entire week) and then by a younger arachnid: "Her way of vibrating was the most erotic thing the male had ever felt. Tap tap taptaptap tap tap taptap. Ah, he could no longer resist her charms and ran to his beloved (a mere slip of a thing only four moults old, whereas he was already twelve). She was three times as big as he, but then he liked his females big." Pressestimmen "This book, to put the matter quite simply, is a masterpiece. . . . Exhilaratingly thought-provoking."--The Sunday Times (London) "A marvel of warped imagination and offbeat suspense."--British Esquire "Like Watership Down, to which it will inevitably be compared, Werber's astonishing first novel invites readers into a highly imagined animal world."--Publishers Weekly (starred review) From the Hardcover edition.