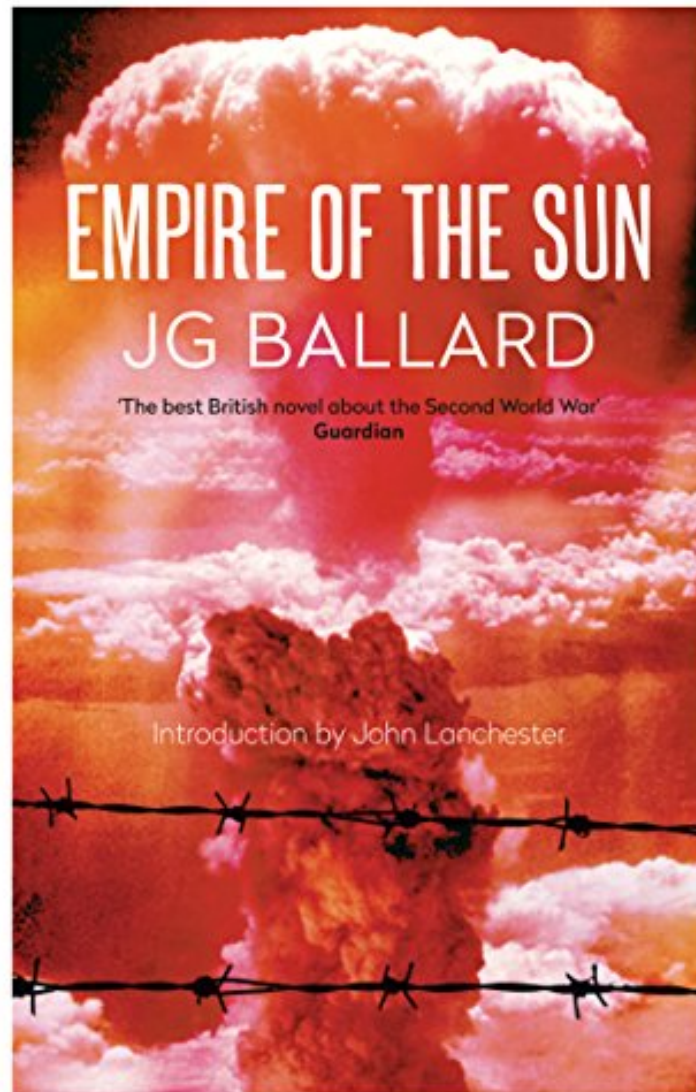


[Free] Empire of the Sun

## Empire of the Sun

Von J. G. Ballard

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**Von J. G. Ballard : Empire of the Sun** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Empire of the Sun:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen4 von 4 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A harrowing coming-of-age storyVon Ein KundeWhile captioned a novel, J. G. Ballard's Empire of the Sun is very much a true life memoir. In this book (made into a film by Steven Spielberg), Ballard first tells the life of a boy ("Jim") in pre-Pearl Harbor Shanghai, the privileged young son of an English business executive. When the war begins, Jim and

his parents are separated, and Jim survives for weeks on his own, living of the food left in his and his neighbors' abandoned mansions. Most of the book is set in the Lunghua prison camp, where Jim is forced to grow up under circumstances no boy should endure. Finally, the war ends, and he is reunited with his parents under the shadow of nascent Chinese communism. Ballard tells a compelling story, and pulls no punches. Much of what Jim experiences is shocking, and Ballard neither embellishes nor understates Jim's experiences. Flies, death, and decomposition are everywhere, as are avarice and (occasionally) kindness. This is a very different "coming of age" story, but one I think a high-schooler would enjoy. (Query: Ballard assumes from his reader a fairly good grounding in World War II and cold war history, which I have. I understand that many young people lack such knowledge. Would such young people understand and appreciate Ballard's story and artistry? I don't know). I suspect this book will be read and recommended for many years to come.

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. The Sun as electromagnetic metaphor

Von Ein Kunde

It's a curious irony that Ballard, the author of numerous surreal/futuristic books is probably best known for this semi-autobiographical account of his experiences as a prisoner of the Japanese during WWII. Whatever limits such a work may have placed on Ballard's imaginative gifts, Empire of the Sun brims with his customary touches; a fascination with the cosmology of decay; cool, detached narrative coupled with strikingly vivid imagery; a fluid, elegant prose style that frequently reaches great height. Ballard's imaginative fiction e.g., Crash, High Rise, Cocaine Nights may not be for everyone; but does anyone write better? Or even as well? Empire of The Sun is a great book. One that can be read and re-read without any regret for the time involved.

1 von 3 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Atemberaubend aber desillusionierend

Von A.C.Kupferschmidt@gmx.de

Ich bin ein riesiger Fan von J.G.Ballard, aber keines seiner Bücher hat mich so sehr bewegt wie dieses. In "Empire of the Sun" erzählt Ballard von seinen Erfahrungen, die er als kleines Kind während des Zweiten Weltkrieges in China gemacht hat. Unter anderem musste er sich völlig allein in einem Gefangenenlager behaupten. So ist es kein Wunder, das ausgerechnet seine Autobiographie eines seiner surrealistischsten Werke ist. Jeder, der auch nur ein Buch von Ballard gelesen und gemocht hat, dem sei dieses Buch wärmstens empfohlen. Ein wenig macht es auch verständlich, wie die Psyche des Autors von Romanen wie "Crash" und "Cocaine Nights" funktioniert.

**Kurzbeschreibung**The heartrending story of a British boy's four year ordeal in a Japanese prison camp during the Second World War. Based on J. G. Ballard's own childhood, this is the extraordinary account of a boy's life in Japanese-occupied wartime Shanghai a mesmerising, hypnotically compelling novel of war, of starvation and survival, of internment camps and death marches. It blends searing honesty with an almost hallucinatory vision of a world thrown utterly out of joint. Rooted as it is in the author's own disturbing experience of war in our time, it is one of a handful of novels by which the twentieth century will be not only remembered but judged.

Pressestimmen`Remarkable...form, content and style fuse with complete success...one of the great war novels of the 20th century.' William Boyd`Gripping and remarkable...I have never read a novel which gave me a stronger sense of the blind helplessness of war...unforgettable.' Observer`Ranks with the greatest British writing on the Second World War.' The Times`A brilliant fusion of history, autobiography and imaginative speculation. An incredible literary achievement and almost intolerably moving.' Anthony Burgess

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