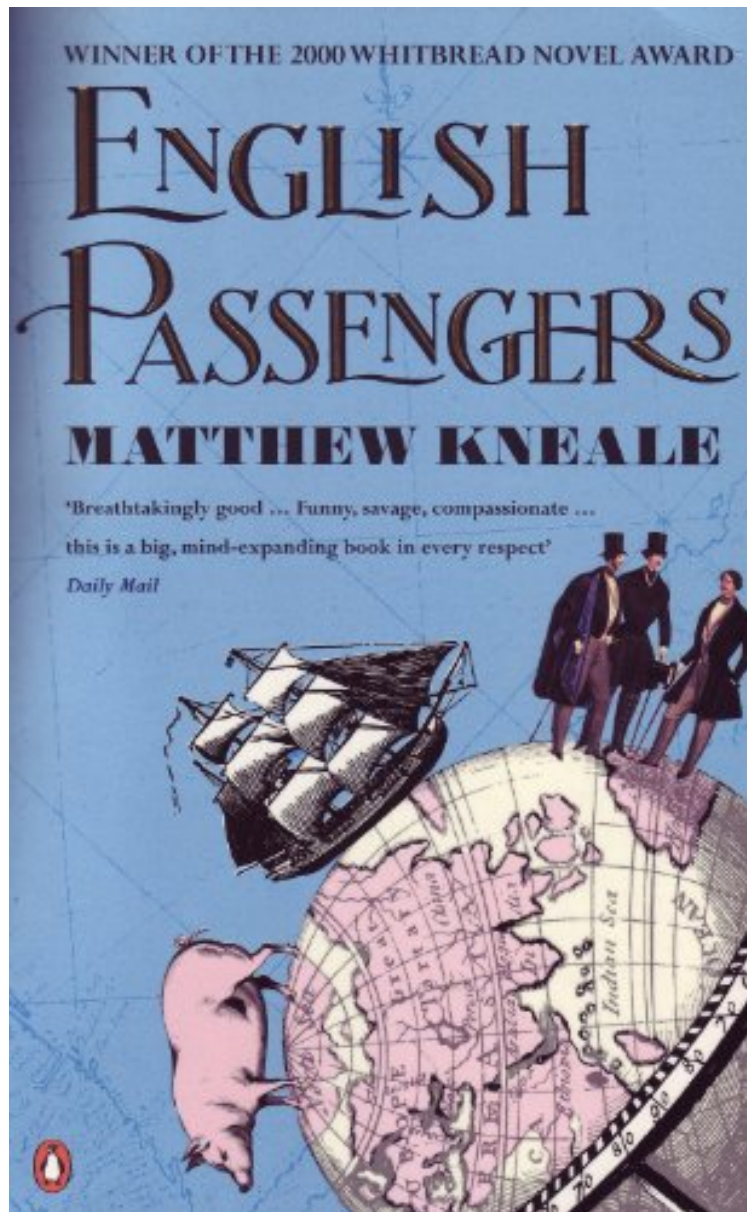


[Library ebook] English Passengers

English Passengers

Von Matthew Kneale

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Von Matthew Kneale : English Passengers before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised English Passengers:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen4 von 4 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Nicht einfach zu lesen, aber die Mhe lohnt sich!Von Ein KundeDies ist kein Roman, den man "mal eben" vor dem

Schlafengehen oder in Bus und Bahn konsumieren kann. Die komplexe Handlung und die sprachlichen Feinheiten fordern die volle Aufmerksamkeit des Lesers, aber er bekommt dafür auch einiges zurück. Selten haben mich Charaktere so gefesselt, fand ich die Borniertheit der Europäer der Kolonialzeit so treffend dargestellt wie in diesem Roman (der weltfremde Reverend fühlt sich mit seiner "professionellen" Ausrüstung "quite fit for travelling in the wilderness" und sieht verächtlich auf Peevay, den "Eingeborenen" herab, der das Land und dessen Töten kennt wie seine Westentasche). Uneingeschränkt empfehlenswert, wenn man mal wieder Lust hat, sich wirklich auf ein Buch einzulassen! 1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. *Map Mundi of the Manx - a splendid read about less splendid events* Von Customer English Passengers Voyage round the world, to discover... what? One of the best reads this summer. The book was on my shelf for three years, and then when the Kindle edition arrived I decided to read it. An extraordinary piece of writing, great characterisation (of English, Manx, Aborigines), original perspective on English colonialism (which doesn't make you want to be British) and tongue-in-cheek humour all the way, to take the edge off the cruelty and abomination of European treatment of Aborigines. It makes the pill look nicer, but the fact is, it doesn't make it right. Mr Kneale is very clever at communicating the essence of the problem without moralising. An instructive and fascinating read: whites and their arrogance, Aborigines and the oppression they suffer(ed) a huge range of human emotions brought to life, and some wonderful experiments with language. 0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. *50 Years, Narrated By 20+ People, And A 75 Word Manx Lexicon* Von taking a rest If you have ever read a work by Umberto Eco you may feel confused, albeit slightly less so, when reading "English Passengers". Firstly, I suggest starting with the Epilogue. This spoils nothing, as it is a written explanation of historical facts in the book, that when known to the reader, will make reading more enjoyable. The same is to be said for the section "The Anglo-Manx Dialect". The Author does a good job of placing these words in context, but it wasn't until I read this section that I learned this language was not only a true language, but also Celtic with relations to Ireland and Scotland. These suggestions are not meant to put you off, rather make your read a more enjoyable one than I might have had, and a finish that was more satisfying for me. As I mentioned I felt a bit like I had an Umberto Eco, "What did I miss hangover" but that was my failing not the Author's. The only item that I could not get accustomed to was the diary style of one of the primary characters. Possibly because he was so annoying, his form of journal notation just reinforced his loathsomeness. This is a great read. The Author's ability to manage almost 2-dozen different voices, over half a century, that comes together at the end in a brilliant manner, is no small feat. There is very little in this book that does not involve commentary from the Author, albeit through the voices he either creates, or borrows from History. Empire building, religion, government, race relations, are just a few of the topics. And while I would never suggest this is a light read, or one that constantly lifts your spirits, you will be well rewarded by the conclusion.

Kurzbeschreibung 'A big, ambitious novel with a rich historical sweep and a host of narrative voices. Its subject is a vicar's ludicrous expedition in 1857 to the Garden of Eden in Tasmania, [as] meanwhile, in Tasmania itself, the British settlers are alternately trying to civilise and eliminate the Aboriginal population ... The sort of novel that few contemporary writers have either the imagination or the stamina to sustain' - Daily Telegraph.de Christopher Columbus was looking for a passage to India when he ran full-tilt into the Americas. One of the narrators of Matthew Kneale's ambitious historical novel *English Passengers* has more modest aspirations: Captain Iliam Quillian Kewley wants only to smuggle a little tobacco, brandy and French pornography from the Isle of Mann to a secluded beach in England. Yet somehow in the process he and his crew end up weighing anchor for Australia. Worse, they are forced to carry three temperamental Englishmen bound for Tasmania on a mission to discover the exact location of the Garden of Eden. The year is 1857, and the study of geology is beginning to make serious inroads into areas of religious doctrine; when the Reverend Geoffrey Wilson runs across a scientific treatise that puts the age of Silurian Limestone somewhere in the neighbourhood of 100,000 years, he is scandalised: "This was despite the fact that the Bible tells, and with great clarity, that the earth was created a mere six thousand years ago". His many attempts to prove the Bible's accuracy lead, eventually, to a scientific expedition comprising himself, Timothy Renshaw, a dilettante botanist, and Dr Thomas Potter. Now jump back 30 years, to 1828, when a revolution of sorts is stirring on the island of Tasmania. Over the years white settlers have been encroaching on aboriginal land and relations have deteriorated into violence. At the heart of the action is Peevay, a young man abandoned by his aborigine mother, who had been kidnapped and raped by a white escaped convict. Now his vengeful mother is leading a war against the whites, and Peevay, desperate to win her love, has joined her. Chapters from the past narrated by Peevay and augmented by letters and dispatches from white settlers alternate with the sections told by Kewley, Wilson, Renshaw and Potter. Eventually, of course, the two timelines intersect with momentous results. War, mutiny, shipwreck and not a little farce make *English Passengers* a gripping read, but it is Matthew Kneale's literary ventriloquism that renders it remarkable. In a novel with so many different points of view, the individuality of each voice stands out. There is, for instance, the mutinous Dr Potter, whose descent into paranoia and egomania results in diary entries reminiscent of a 19th-century

psychotic Bridget Jones: "Manxmen = treacherous even to v. last. Self heard Brew (lashed to mainmast as per usual) instructing helmsman to steer N.N.W. when self questioned he re. this he claiming we = carried into Bay of Biscay by difficult sea currents + must set course to avoid Breton Peninsular. He pointing to distant point of land to N.N.E. claiming this = Brittany. Self = doubtful". Perhaps the most compelling voice in *English Passengers* belongs to Peevay, who paints a vivid picture of aboriginal life in a foreign tongue he nonetheless makes his own: When we sat so in the dark, after our eating, Tartoyen told us stories--secret stories that I will not say even now--about the moon and sun, and how everyone got made, from men and wallaby to seal and kangaroo rat and so. Also he told who was in those rocks and mountains and stars, and how they went there. Until, by and by, I could hear stories as we walked across the world, and divine how it got so, till I knew the world as if he was some family fellow of mine. By the close of this epic tale, the world Peevay knew has gone forever, and the lives of the Manx sailors and English passengers have been irrevocably changed. Based on real events in Tasmanian history, Matthew Kneale's novel delivers a home truth about Australia's brutal colonial past, even as it conveys the wonder and allure of the age of exploration. --Alix Wilber

Pressestimmen "Jede Seite sprht vor sprachlicher Erfindungskraft, und wie gekonnte Komdie mit dramatischen Schrecken verbunden wird ist meisterhaft... Die "Englischen Passagiere" verdienen es, mit wilden Beifallsstrmen und Preisen berhuft im Hafen willkommen geheien zu werden." (The Guardian) "Ein fesselndes, geschickt konstruiertes, ernsthaftes und sehr lesbares Buch... Eine uerst eindrucksvolle Leistung: mal bedrohlich, mal ironisch, und dabei selbstsicher genug, die Geschichte fr sich sprechen zu lassen." (The Sunday Telegraph)