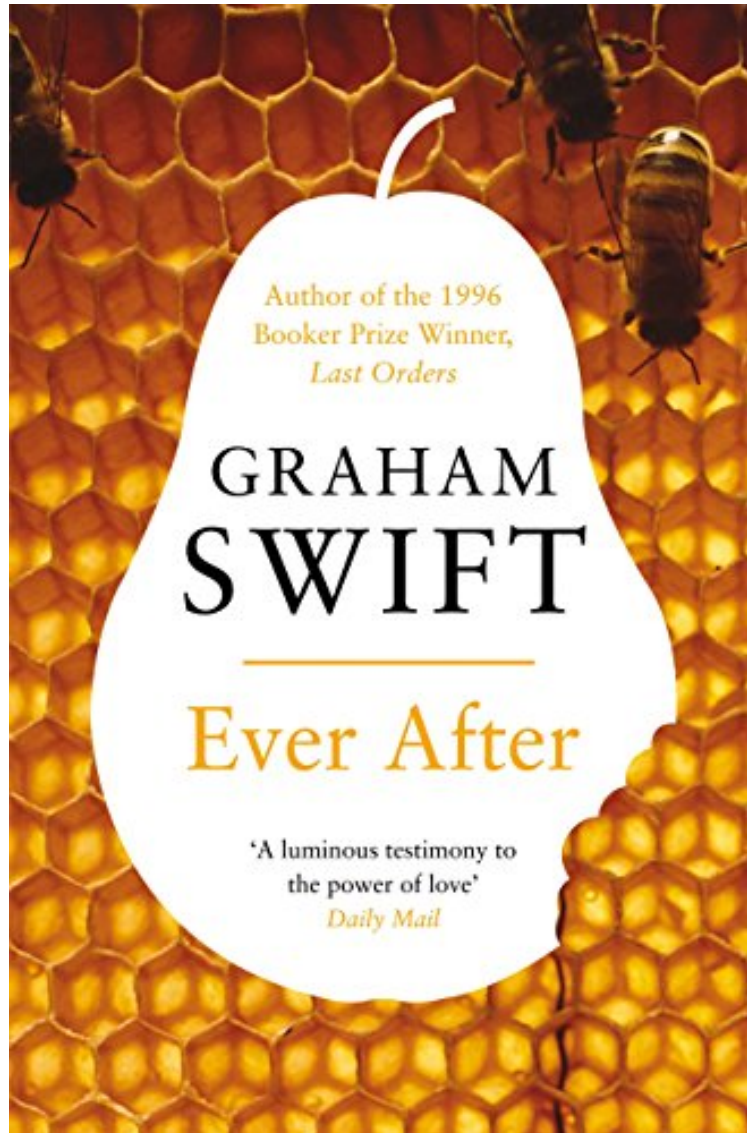


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Ever After (English Edition)

Von Graham Swift

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Von Graham Swift : Ever After (English Edition) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Ever After (English Edition):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen2 von 2 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. An allegory with a twistVon Ein KundeGraham Swift is the last great story teller-- a combination of Ernest Hemingway and Aesop. By juxtaposing the first person narrative of a disenchanting college professor (sp?) and the diaries of an early believer in the evolutionary theory of nature (Darwin), Swift spins a tale of morality without a moral, and draws

parallels between the two protagonists and their respective searches for the answer to one untimely question- does anything really matter? Swift's vivid yet spare prose mirrors the paradoxical nature of both his main characters. Each is at once vulnerable and cynical, courageous but exhausted, afraid to be alone, and afraid of intimacy. Swift could have ended by providing a clearly defined answer to his own characters question thus weakening the realistic tone he had set throughout. However, he refuses to tie such a neat bow. Swift merely acknowledges that asking the question "is anything divine?" is more important than finding a concrete answer. Swift supposes finally that life is a journey made of questions and we can either rejoice in the precarious nature of such a subjective path, or allow it to cause us to despair. On the way from page one to the last paragraph, the reader is made to sift through interesting musings concerning Shakespeare, Darwinism, Paris, male/female relationships, suicide, and academic politics. Graham Swift is possibly the finest modern English writer, and this is quite possibly his finest novel to date. 1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. ... and Even Beyond Von Ein Kunde What a poignant and eloquent account of life (or at least the illusion of being alive) by an obviously seasoned and sensitive artist! Swift describes the sublimely vivid yet hazy realizations about a bookish yet intuitive academic's quest for the pure meaning in his life. Delicious portraits of life in Paris, recollections of finding and losing true love and friendship, and a yearning to prove or disprove the validity of doctrinized religion are blended amidst the collage of dabbles with sexuality, betrayal, perceptions of human nature, and the tragic Hamlet condition of jealousy pangs for a mother who, upon close character inspection, has even further muddled the once secure ideals regarding family and lineage. There is hardly any well-defined escape out of this complicated entangling, but the seemingly nonexistent resolution may actually shed an enlightening view upon the meaning of existence... if you read closely enough between the lines. Savor this one and enjoy. 0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A BIT CEREBRAL FOR THIS LISTENER Von Gail Cooke Booker Prize winner Graham Swift gives us another rich, masterful tale that spans two centuries. Yet while masterful for this listener it was difficult to follow. At times I wished for a print copy so that I could go back and double check to try to make sure that I was understanding the authors intentions. My confusion was not at all due to the narrator as Michael Maloney's voice performance was superb. Protagonist Bill Unwin who is both bereft and haunted by the death of his lovely wife recalls the events of his life and his research as he ponders the relationship between the two. His wife had taken her own life and Bill tried to follow but lived on. Due to the intervention of his stepfather he has a place at a respected university where he is adapting the diary of a Victorian relative, Matthew. Matthew had deserted his wife and family after telling them that the theory of evolution had caused him to lose his faith in creationism. His wife kept Matthews diary and other things which she passed down to Bill and his wife. As Bill studies the diary he finds a kinship between that family and his own destiny. Graham Swift is a vaunted English writer, the recipient of numerous awards. Some of his books have been made into films - my favorite being Waterland starring Jeremy Irons. Ever After was a bit too cerebral for my leisure listening, but Graham Swift continues to intrigue and give us pause.

Kurzbeschreibung A subtle book that lingers in the mind . . . Here is a writer of very considerable power Daily Telegraph An academic sits alone in his college room thinking about the people he has lost. Powerful memories crowd in on him childhood days in Paris; his exuberant, glamorous mother; his mysterious father; and the brash young American who becomes his step-father. Mingled with this emerges a tender portrait of his relationship with his actress wife. Ever After is a poignant elegy to lost faith and lost hope. It is also a powerful affirmation of love. Touching and beguiling . . . Graham Swift has written a deeply felt and rather haunting novel Anita Brookner, Spectator Swift is set apart by his acute observation and thrilling exactness of description . . . Exceptional The Times A remarkable feat Evening Standard Graham Swift has performed a literary tour de force in this novel Literary From Publishers Weekly Musing on a set of Victorian diaries and reminiscing about his own life, the quirky academic who narrates Swift's latest novel fails to capture the reader's imagination. A BOMC alternate selection in cloth. Copyright 1993 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Kirkus s This time out, Swift (Out of This World, Waterland, Learning to Swim, etc.) at first seems to be reworking a fictional convention that's becoming tired from overuse: the writer--or, as here, the Oxford academic--who finds himself in possession of an old manuscript whose revelations dovetail with the perturbations of the modern interpreter. Bill Unwin is the ambivalent don in question, and the journals (bequeathed by family) concern a Victorian ancestor named Matthew Pearce, a surveyor and rector's son-in-law whose life and faith is changed forever when, on the cliffs of Dorset in 1844, he comes face-to-face with an ichthyosaurus. Darwin replaces God in Pearce at that instant--but in Unwin the revelation only sharpens the dilemma of knowing what's better unknown (in his own case, the suicide death of his father), and the questions of immortality and memory and fame and mutability (all very much on his mind since his beloved actress wife Ruth's early cancer death). Unwin has attempted suicide himself but failed, and the vagrant nature of his narration seems an impossible search for focus. Swift is a very cunning writer, though. Every thematic strand--books, bridges, railroads, dinosaurs, acting, sex--subtly achieves a color that makes it recognizable once the chords of fuge on the theme of mortality and immortality are struck. And feeling (a rare commodity in younger British writers nowadays) is what makes these colors so high: even at its most

looping and shuffling, the book finds ways to move you, untricked-up emotion being its surest ground. Unwin's losses are ranged around, but so are the bravery of his questioning memory and the fidelity of his love. -- Copyright 1992, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.