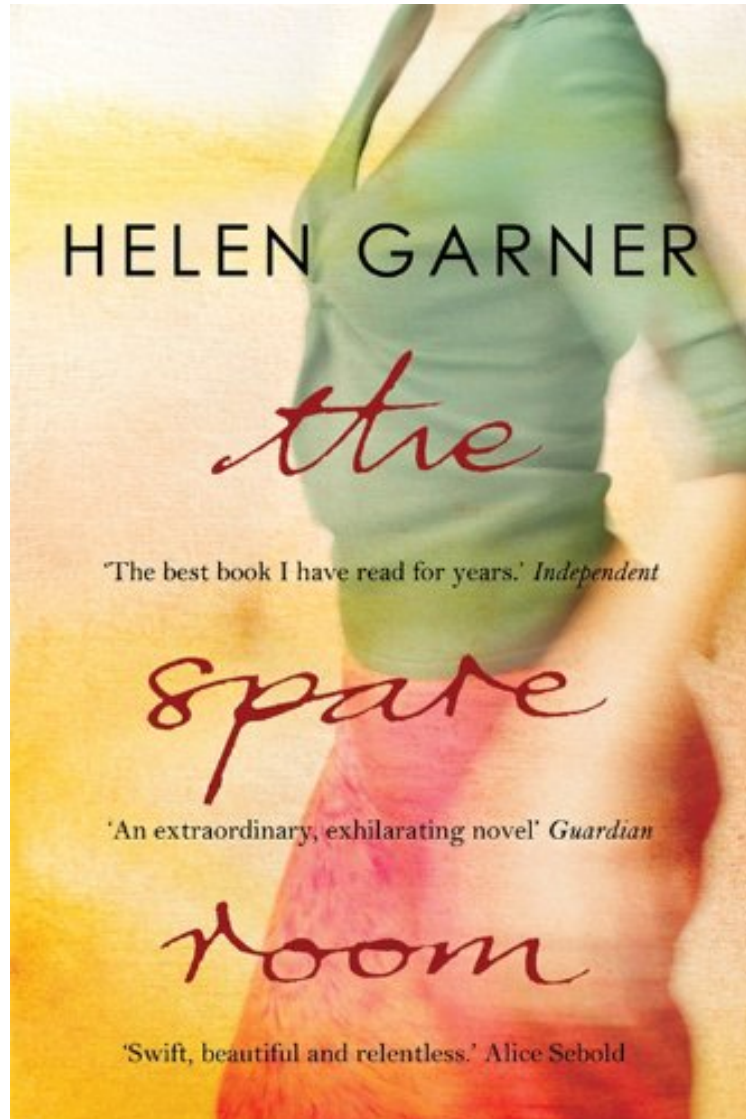


The Spare Room

Von Helen Garner

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Von Helen Garner : The Spare Room before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Spare Room:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich.

Caregiver's JourneyVon Lynne SpreenThis is the story of two women in their sixties. Helen, the narrator, is thriving, with work, family, and a nice homelife. Nicola, her friend, is a charismatic narcissist who is dying. In her manic efforts to thwart death with every crackpot cure available, Nicola becomes a black hole who sucks out the energy of everyone who loves her. This book is a chronicle of that journey.The good: The book is well-paced and interesting. Garner is a

talented writer, and she describes beautifully the reality of caregiving. Here are some examples: We led (Nicola) into the spare room and she sat shivering on the edge of the bed. I banged down the window and switched on the oil heater. No, thank you she didn't want to drink, or eat, or wash, or go to the toilet. She was silent. Her head hung forward, as if a tiny fascinating scene were being enacted on her lap. Bessie, age five, who is denied attention due to Nicola's needs, ...hesitated, glaring at me over her shoulder, long enough for me to see her pearly skin, the vital luster of her pouting lower lip. Description of a quack clinic: The room within was painted a strange yellow, the color of controlled panic. At the realization she'd have no choice but to offer up the next few weeks to continuing Nicola's care: My heart was full of holes. Everything strong and purposeful was draining out of me. When my coffee came I could hardly lift the cup. I drove home. My desk was buried under sliding heaps of unread and unanswered mail. I had lost control of my life. I also enjoyed the vernacular of urban Australia. The story is set largely in Melbourne, and their everyday language is different from what I'm used to. That added another layer of interest. The not-so-great: this is a chronicle of a debilitating and wondrous period in the author's life. It's really interesting to the reader, like driving past a wreck, but I like to see character growth. In that sense, the ending was a bit unsatisfying. Helen and all the other caregivers continue sacrificing themselves for Nicola right up until the last page. No changes. However, the story contained two powerful reminders. One, to appreciate my life, in spite of the fact that I can no longer leap tall buildings. Spare Room imparts gratitude for the joy of relative health and independence. Two, to do everything in my power NOT to let caregiving mow me down, the next time I'm in that situation. So thanks to Helen Garner for sharing her story with us. I recommend this book.

1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Freundschaft durch Dick und Dnn Von Milchbart Das ist eine sehr gute Schilderung einer Freundschaft und die Bereitschaft, eine kranke Freundin für drei Wochen zu pflegen bzw. ihr Gastfreundschaft zu gewähren. Wie schwierig dieses werden kann, obwohl der Mensch einem lieb und teuer ist, stellt die Autorin sehr gut da. Kein Kitsch, kein Pathos, sondern gelungene Schilderung von Gefühlen. Manchmal ist das Englisch etwas anspruchsvoll, doch ihr Erzählstil super und gut zu lesen.

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Zwischen Klinik und Komik Von Martina G. Ich sehe keine Arztserien und hasse Krankengeschichten. Eigentlich. In diesem Buch wird das freie Zimmer zum Gästezimmer, zum Krankenzimmer. Helen Garner schildert aus der Ich-Perspektive das Zusammenleben der gesunden Gastgeberin mit der krebserkrankten Freundin, die sich irrational und hoffnungsvoll an jeden Strohhalm und Scharlatan klammert, der ihr Heilung verspricht. Die Kranke verliert ein Vermögen, die Gesunde zweifelt an den Nerven. Schonungslos ehrlich und dennoch warmherzig beschreibt die Erzählerin die wechselhaften Tage, den Leidensweg, die Zuversicht und das Entsetzen angesichts der alles dominierenden Krankheit. Ein absolut unkitschiges Buch über Freundschaft und Zusammenhalt. Ich habe erfolglos nachgeschaut, ob Garner das so erlebt hat. Muss eigentlich, kann sie sich gar nicht ausgedacht haben. Sehr realistisch jedenfalls. Empfehlenswert.

Kurzbeschreibung Helen has little idea what lies ahead when she offers her spare room to an old friend of fifteen years. Nicola has arrived in the city for treatment for cancer. Sceptical of the medical establishment, placing all her faith in an alternative health centre, Nicola is determined to find her own way to deal with her illness, regardless of the advice that Helen can offer. In the weeks that follow, Nicola's battle against her cancer will turn not only her own life upside down but also those of everyone around her. THE SPARE ROOM is a magical gem of a book that packs a huge punch, charting a friendship as it is tested by the threat of death.

Pressestimmen "The Spare Room" is a perfect novel, imbued with all Garner's usual clear-eyed grace but with some other magnificent dimension that hides between the lines of her simple conversational voice. How is it that she can enter this heart-breaking territory--the dying friend who comes to stay--and make it not only bearable, but glorious, and funny? There is no answer except: Helen Garner is a great writer; "The Spare Room" is a great book."--Peter Carey "I very much admire "The Spare Room," It's cleanly-written, sharp, with the authority of lived experience but an artist's penetration of the issues. It provides a portrait very hard to erase, of a child's ego trapped in a failing and ageing body, and it raises uncomfortable questions: what are the limits of friendship? Who will care for a generation that thought it would never get old?"--Hilary Mantel, author of "Beyond Black "and "Giving Up the Ghost" "Swift, beautiful, and relentless, "The Spare Room "is a brutal novel in the best sense."--Alice Sebold "My favorite discovery of the year."--Anne Enright "Luminous. . . It reminds us that literature not only can, but must, address the most important subjects, because it does so in ways no other form can."--Claire Messud, "Newsweek" "Garner is perhaps most easily introduced to new American readers as the Joan Didion of Australia--a person who writes with a diamond drill, depicting human relationships with such brutal clarity they seem to be rendered for the first time."--April Smith, "Los Angeles Times" "A Molotov cocktail of a book. . . Her voice is full of unexpected humor."--Emily Carter, "Minneapolis Star-Tribune" "A book so sensitive, sad, funny, and alive that it surely deserves an honored place on many shelves."--Diana Athill, "The Daily Telegraph" (UK) "Two women who have known each other for fifteen years, spending three weeks together with the weight of one crushing disease. How do we calculate what's important in our lives? Highly recommended."--Bette-Lee Fox, "Library Journal" (starred review) "Only great fiction demands us to reset our moral compass and look at our value coordinates all over

again. "The Spare Room" achieves this."--Neel Mukherjee, "The Times" (UK) My favorite discovery of the year. "Anne Enright" Luminous. . . It reminds us that literature not only can, but must, address the most important subjects, because it does so in ways no other form can. "Claire Messud, Newsweek" Garner is perhaps most easily introduced to new American readers as the Joan Didion of Australia--a person who writes with a diamond drill, depicting human relationships with such brutal clarity they seem to be rendered for the first time. "April Smith, Los Angeles Times" A Molotov cocktail of a book. . . Her voice is full of unexpected humor. "Emily Carter, Minneapolis Star-Tribune" A book so sensitive, sad, funny, and alive that it surely deserves an honored place on many shelves. "Diana Athill, The Daily Telegraph (UK)" Two women who have known each other for fifteen years, spending three weeks together with the weight of one crushing disease. How do we calculate what's important in our lives? Highly recommended. "Bette-Lee Fox, Library Journal (starred review)" Only great fiction demands us to reset our moral compass and look at our value coordinates all over again. "The Spare Room" achieves this. "Neel Mukherjee, The Times (UK)" "My favorite discovery of the year." --Anne Enright "Luminous. . . It reminds us that literature not only can, but must, address the most important subjects, because it does so in ways no other form can." --Claire Messud, Newsweek "Garner is perhaps most easily introduced to new American readers as the Joan Didion of Australia--a person who writes with a diamond drill, depicting human relationships with such brutal clarity they seem to be rendered for the first time." --April Smith, Los Angeles Times "A Molotov cocktail of a book. . . Her voice is full of unexpected humor." --Emily Carter, Minneapolis Star-Tribune "A book so sensitive, sad, funny, and alive that it surely deserves an honored place on many shelves." --Diana Athill, The Daily Telegraph (UK) "Two women who have known each other for fifteen years, spending three weeks together with the weight of one crushing disease. How do we calculate what's important in our lives? Highly recommended." --Bette-Lee Fox, Library Journal (starred review) "Only great fiction demands us to reset our moral compass and look at our value coordinates all over again. The Spare Room achieves this." --Neel Mukherjee, The Times (UK) Kurzbeschreibung Helen has little idea what lies ahead when she offers her spare room to an old friend of fifteen years. Nicola has arrived in the city for treatment for cancer. Sceptical of the medical establishment, placing all her faith in an alternative health centre, Nicola is determined to find her own way to deal with her illness, regardless of the advice that Helen can offer. In the weeks that follow, Nicola's battle against her cancer will turn not only her own life upside down but also those of everyone around her. THE SPARE ROOM is a magical gem of a book that packs a huge punch, charting a friendship as it is tested by the threat of death.