

The Tin Drum

Von Gunter Grass

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Von Gunter Grass : The Tin Drum before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Tin Drum:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen2 von 2 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. An overwhelming, impressive, confusing, masterpieceVon Karen LevyI have just completed this masterpiece of literary fiction - of all the great works I have read, Grass's is a tour de force of imagination surpassed by few. It is a grotesque and pathetic but brilliant portrait of humanity - like Oskar and all of of the characters who become unforgettable. I

could not put it down. True, the book is lacking in plot - but that is not its genius. Its genius is portraying the human condition -- and human behavior. ...I agree that it is not the ultimate testimony about the horrors of Nazi Germany that it is billed to be. This was confusing to me -- I think much of the retrospective criticism of this novel credits Grass too much with portraying the horrors of the Third Reich. It is a more generic portrait of the evils of humanity. Two hundred years from now, a reader will not learn of the German atrocities from the Tin Drum; however it will still be a great work of literature with universal truths. I also want to strongly disagree with the reader who commented that the message is that humans are not good or evil - just a product of their situation. If we learn anything from this novel, we must learn the horrible truth that human beings have an incredible capacity for callousness, dispassionateness and, yes, pure evil. Take the Alfred Maskereth's warming his hands over the burning remains of the synagogue; the children of Danzig; the Polish looters on the train ride West; the "innocents" Oskar converts to petty thieves, to name a few. All of the characters in Tin Drum have knowledge of right and wrong - most seem to choose wrong - a sad commentary on humanity, but appropriate considering the period and circumstances which gave birth to this book. END

1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Not an easy read, a dream like story (a bad dream) Von Colin R. Glassey
Grass was a young boy when World War II started (he was 11 years old when the war started). He is (if you don't know) German. So, he was old enough to have some idea what was going on, but too young to have any degree of control over his life. He was just another ordinary German civilian caught up in what became one of the greatest tragedies in world history. This book, his first novel, written in the late 1950s, is obviously a reaction to his life during the war. It is not directly autobiographical because it is told using metaphors and many things happen which (in all likelihood) never happened to young Mr. Grass. However, the metaphors "work" in a way that perhaps gets at the emotional truth of what happened. Frankly, this book didn't quite succeed for me. I do not rate it as one of the great novels of the 20th century. As an historian I know a great deal about the facts of the war. What was it like to be a young boy in Nazi Germany, seeing your world literally destroyed before your eyes? Seeing your older cousins going off to war and never coming back? And then, learning after the war, about the monstrous crimes committed by "ordinary Germans"? I'm not at all convinced that this book really gives you a good sense of that. For me, at least, it's just too absurd. Call me a foolish realist. Tell me you can only capture the horror and chaos of seeing your city burned to the ground, your whole life torn apart through forces beyond your control, through absurdity and metaphor. I'd rather Grass told the truth, or told a truthful story. To my mind, "The Tin Drum" is not a truthful story. Still, I can see why some people like it. It has quality both in writing and in the senses it brings to life through the pages of the story. Certainly it has left an impression on me even after many years. One thing is certain, I have no desire to read this book again.

1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Interesting to say the least
Von euphonyamy
The Tin Drum is definitely not for everyone, a warning I've already seen repeated several times. It is exhausting, unconventional, and long, but if you're willing to put the time into reading it, it is a rewarding experience, 600 pages of humanity in all its beauty and horror. Oskar is a strange character, but very intriguing. At times, I felt like I could completely relate to him, only to be completely shocked and disgusted by his actions. There were times when I was physically nauseated by this book: the children's stew, the horse head and eels, the mushroom smell of Maria and his grandmother, the pin and Matzerath. Any book that can have that sort of affect on its reader is powerful. You shouldn't read the Tin Drum if you're looking for a captivating plot, though at times the plot is captivating. What is really special about Grass' writing are his characterizations which said more about Eastern Europe before/during/after the Nazi era than any plot could've. Though some call this book too fantastic, I think it beautifully and honestly illustrates that period and those people who have been warped by WWII propaganda, the average people living under Nazi rule: grocers, artists, and families; Grass brings them to life. Oskar on the other hand does not seem average, but then again he's not meant to be. This is fiction after all. If you want a book to dutifully relate Nazi-ruled Eastern Europe read an encyclopedia. If you want to meet people, read the Tin Drum.

Kurzbeschreibung The Tin Drum, one of the great novels of the twentieth century, was published in Ralph Manheim's outstanding translation in 1959. It became a runaway bestseller and catapulted its young author to the forefront of world literature.