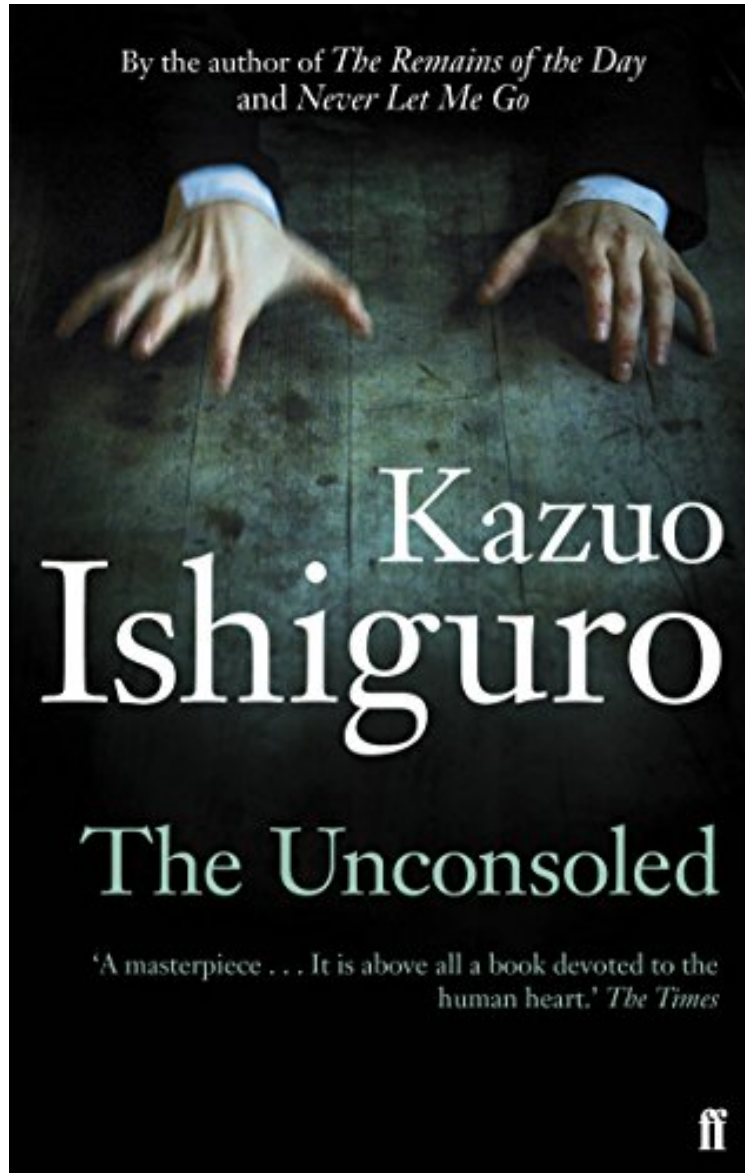


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The Unconsoled (English Edition)

Von Kazuo Ishiguro

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Von Kazuo Ishiguro : The Unconsoled (English Edition) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Unconsoled (English Edition):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen11 von 11 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A strange experiement in writing; a study in anxietyVon Christopher A. SmithThis was a maddening infuriating novel that somehow managed to captivate me.The story does not follow what one would conventionally call a "plot". A

pianist comes to an unnamed Central/Eastern European town to save the locals from impending cultural disaster. From the very strange things happen: we're taken on ten-minute elevator rides, we're lectured, we face requests and pleas at every turn, we're led down passageways with illogical beginnings and ends, and confronted with characters who never quite reveal their hidden motives. This is an experiment in writing. The reader feels as if he/she is reading the transcript of a fevered dream which never quite spins into a nightmare, and we're captivated by the experience. This is a study in constructed anxiety. We know we're on the path to some sort of impending doom but we can't get out of the way. I read *The Unconsoled* years ago and I still vividly remember the details; the illogical leaps in time and inexplicable coincidences. This is a strange and complicated novel that left me exhausted. This is not a feel-good read. Its strange format notwithstanding it addresses some big issues. What is community? What is the individual's obligation to others? How are we united and what separates us? And in the end, what control do we have over our own lives, much less the lives of those who depend on us. A courageous novel. A strange experiment that, in the end, works quite well.

5 von 5 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Did anyone notice that it's FUNNY? Von Paul B Callahan I read through all the reviews here, and actually one reviewer DID notice that it's a very funny novel, but it looks like a number of people don't think so. Fine. Humor is a subjective thing. I don't think anyone could enjoy it without laughing all the way through, so I can only conclude that those who reviewed it negatively have a different sense of humor from mine. Second, when I recommend this novel to friends, I don't point out that it follows the schema of a panic dream (e.g., you're late for the meeting and then you discover you're not wearing pants, and so on), because that's a major spoiler. It takes at least 30 pages to figure it out, and this is a large part of the fun. But I reiterate the point here, because it looks like it's not obvious to all reviewers. Again, if you don't get this, then the novel is not going to make a lot of sense, and I doubt it would be enjoyable. (And I don't find it surreal in the sense of Kafka; it's actually a very *realistic* depiction of what it feels like to be dreaming, though clearly a real dream could never go on so long and be self-consistent.) Finally, I completely disagree with the comment that the chapters could be read in a different order. Maybe the novel is too long, but it's tightly woven. Every seemingly pointless digression in dialogue ties in with a later event. It's just a pleasure to be surprised again and again at how seemingly inconsequential comments are woven into the plot much later.

2 von 3 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. I am unconsoled with this book! Von Paul Howard Miller I read 300 pages of Ishiguro's "Unconsoled" and had to give up. The novel is set up like a dream or nightmare, depending on your point of view. Me I just wanted to wake-up! The dream state that Ishiguro had his main character Ryder in becomes a vehicle for any indulgence or mistake by the author. Kafka summed up the absurd in quite fewer pages and much better in *The Trial*. Kafka keeps your heart beating with K.'s breathless anxiety. *The Unconsoled* is a page turner, but dead-pan, emotionless, and lifeless. No doubt Ishiguro intended this since he is working with the dream state. I kind of felt like a zombie turning the pages after awhile. For me it had me wondering why I was making the trip and spending the time to read it, not a good sign. The only person unconsoled at the end of this novel is the reader. That being said, Ishiguro's "The Artist of the Floating World" was very good.

Kurzbeschreibung 'Almost certainly a masterpiece.' Anita Brookner Ryder, a renowned pianist, arrives in a Central European city he cannot identify for a concert he cannot remember agreeing to give. But then as he traverses a landscape by turns eerie and comical - and always strangely malleable, as a dream might be - he comes steadily to realise he is facing the most crucial performance of his life. Ishiguro's extraordinary and original study of a man whose life has accelerated beyond his control was met on publication by consternation, vilification - and the highest praise. If you enjoyed *The Unconsoled*, you might also like Ishiguro's *The Remains of the Day*, now available in Faber Modern Classics. From Publishers Weekly A renowned pianist finds himself in a mysterious and dreamlike urban maze. Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Booklist A surrealistic atmosphere envelops the latest novel by the author of the much-acclaimed *Remains of the Day* (1989). Kafkaesque in its disjointed reality and in its dark Eastern European ambience, Ishiguro's new work attempts to disorient readers by confusing them as to what's taking place. Those who persist in holding on to this bucking bronco of a story will endure a series of twists and turns that lead down the byways of an unnamed city where Ryder, a world-renowned pianist, has come to present a major concert. Upon his arrival, Ryder seems to be awakening from a dream; he remembers little of where this place is and how he comes to be here. As a Twilight Zone feeling develops, Ryder becomes embroiled in other people's tangled personal lives. He seems to know things about people he's never met before--or has he?--and they know things about him. Yet he decides at the conclusion of this peculiar visit that "whatever disappointments this city had brought, there was no doubting that my presence had been greatly appreciated--just as it had been everywhere else I had ever gone." An intriguing if perplexing tale for serious fiction readers. Expect demand where Ishiguro has a following. Brad Hooper