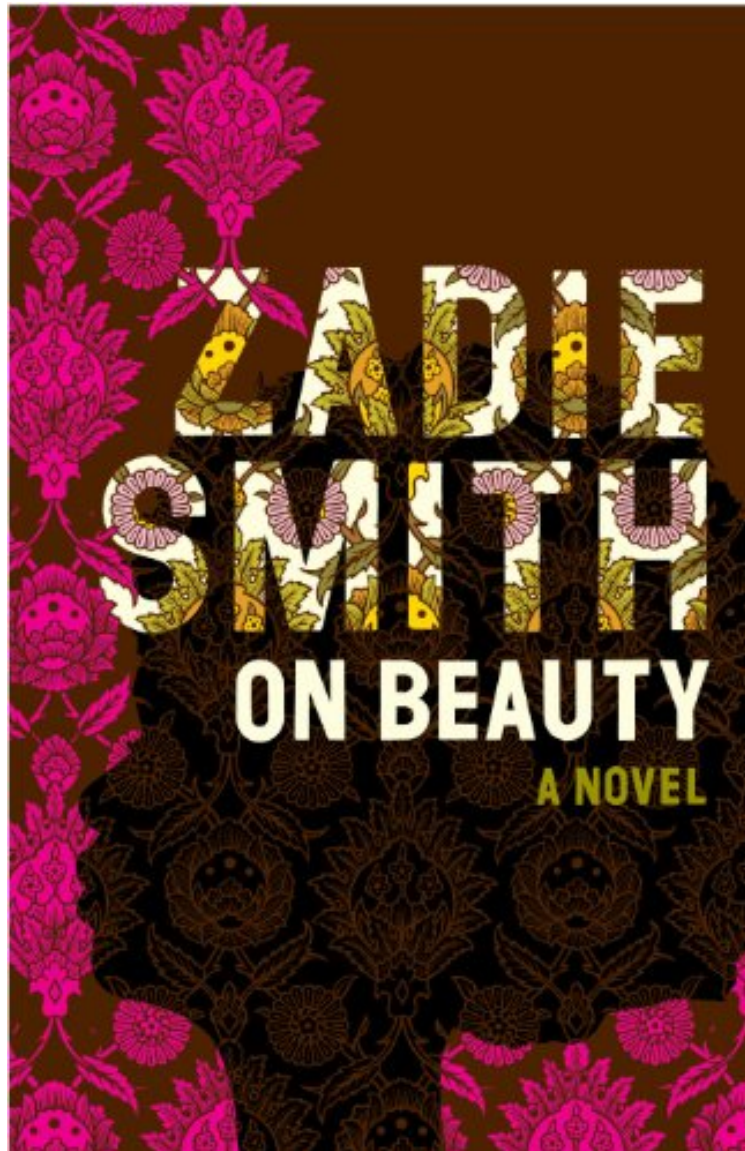


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On Beauty

Von Zadie Smith

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Von Zadie Smith : On Beauty before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised On Beauty:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen42 von 45 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich.
Universittssatire mit richtig SubstanzVon AnglophilUniversittssatire mit richtig Substanz, komisch und traurig
zugleich; ein Roman, gespickt mit Situationskomik, in dem sich die Zufle und Ereignisse berschlagen, in dem es aber
auch um Identittssuche geht (beim Heranwachsen, in der ersten Liebe, nach dreiig Jahren Ehe), um Wahrheit und

Wahrhaftigkeit, um die Frage nach dem, was Schönheit ausmacht, und um die Rolle des Wissens. Gleichzeitig eine Familiengeschichte la Franzen mit hnlich gro-gescheiterten Gestalten, Satire auf Wissensbetrieb und Intelligenzia, bietet es Einblicke in Rap und Poesie, in politische und gesellschaftliche Fragen, und ist gleichzeitig eine spannende, mit Spa zu lesende Lektre.24 von 26 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Spannende Lektre Von H. Tag Mit treffenden, lebendigen und fast poetischen Worten gelingt es Zadie Smith, die Vorkommnisse an einer amerikanischen Elite-Unit treffend zu beschreiben. Dabei sind die Charaktere so menschlich genau und packend beschrieben, als kenne man sie selbst. Und nicht nur das: auch die Uni erwacht in der Fantasie zum Leben - und ist beileibe kein trockener Ort des Lernens und der Theorie..... Ich glaube, es gibt ein Literatur-genre namen "university novel" - dieser Roman ist auf jeden Fall eine eins-zu-eins-Beschreibung fr jeden, der noch nicht dort war - und nach diesem Roman dort vielleicht auch nicht hin mchte..Mit anderen Worten: wer dieses Buch gelesen hat, mchte auch alle weiteren dieser Autoren lesen ! Ich jedenfalls hab's verschlungen.47 von 49 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Gut, aber nicht berragend Von Michael Dienstbier Man nehme zwei Familien, fge zahlreiche Neurosen hinzu und schon hat man einen zum Schreien komischen Roman ber das merkwrdige Verhalten von durchschnittlichen Mittelklasse-Menschen. Howard Belsey und Monty Kipps sind beides Professoren fr Kunstgeschichte mit dem Spezialgebiet Rembrandt und knnen sich gegenseitig auf den Tod nicht ausstehen. Der liberale Amerikaner Howard verachtet die Moral des religis-konservativen Englnders Kipps, der mit seiner neuen Rembrandt-Biografie gerade die Bestsellerlisten gestrmt hat. Gut nur, dass ein Ozean die beiden trennt. Doch wie es der Zufall so will bernimmt Monty eine Gastprofessur an der Universitt Wellington, an der auch Howard forscht und lehrt. Und schon geht das wilde Treiben los. Die beiden Ehefrauen freunden sich zur Verwunderung aller an und Howards Sohn Jerome entjungfert Montys Tochter Victoria, die dann pltzlich beginnt, Howard den Kopf zu verdrehen. "On Beauty" ist eine gelungene Mischung aus Jonathan Frantzens "The Corrections" und einer campus novel. berzeugend seziiert Smith die Familienverhltnisse, die sich hinter der schnen Fassade verbergen sowie die diversen Eitelkeiten in der akademischen Welt. Die Autorin berzeugt mit viel Sprachwitz und einer genauen Charakterisierung ihrer Protagonisten. Fr den Booker Prize hat es aber nicht gereicht. 2005 unterlag "On Beauty" zu Recht John Banvilles "The Sea".

Kurzbeschreibung Zadie Smith's *On Beauty* is a funny, powerful and moving story about love and family Why do we fall in love with the people we do? Why do we visit our mistakes on our children? What makes life truly beautiful? Set in New England mainly and London partly, *On Beauty* concerns a pair of feuding families - the Belseys and the Kipps - and a clutch of doomed affairs. It puts low morals among high ideals and asks some searching questions about what life does to love. For the Belseys and the Kipps, the confusions - both personal and political - of our uncertain age are about to be brought close to home: right to the heart of family. 'The novel I didn't want to finish, I was enjoying it so much' John Sutherland, *Evening Standard* 'Thrums with intellectual sass and know-how' *Literary Delightfully entertaining . . . filled with humour, generosity and contemporary sparkle* Alex Clark, *Daily Telegraph* 'My novel of the year . . . Delicious' Liz Jones, *Evening Standard* 'Satirical, wise and sexy' *Washington Post* 'Heartstopping' *The Times Literary Supplement* 'A triumph, Smith's comedy shines' *Daily Mail* 'Ambitious, hugely impressive, beautifully observed' *Guardian* Zadie Smith was born in north-west London in 1975. Her debut novel, *White Teeth*, won the Whitbread First Novel Award, the Guardian First Book Award, the James Tait Black Memorial Prize for Fiction, and the Commonwealth Writers' First Book Prize, and was included in *TIME* 100 Best English-language Novels from 1923 to 2005. Her second novel, *On Beauty*, was shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize and won the Orange Prize for Fiction. She has written two further novels, *The Autograph Man* and *NW*, a collection of essays, *Changing My Mind*, and also edited a short-story anthology, *The Book of Other People*..de In an author's note at the end of *On Beauty*, Zadie Smith writes: "My largest structural debt should be obvious to any E.M. Forster fan; suffice it to say he gave me a classy old frame, which I covered with new material as best I could." If it is true that imitation is the sincerest form of flattery, Forster, perched on a cloud somewhere, should be all puffed up with pride. His disciple has taken *Howards End*, that marvelous tale of class difference, and upped the ante by adding race, politics, and gender. The end result is a story for the 21st century, told with a perfect ear for everything: gangsta street talk; academic posturing, both British and American; down-home black Floridian straight talk; and sassy, profane kids, both black and white. Howard Belsey is a middle-class white liberal Englishman teaching abroad at Wellington, a thinly disguised version of one of the Ivies. He is a Rembrandt scholar who can't finish his book and a recent adulterer whose marriage is now on the slippery slope to disaster. His wife, Kiki, a black Floridian, is a warm, generous, competent wife, mother, and medical worker. Their children are Jerome, disgusted by his father's behavior, Zora, Wellington sophomore firebrand feminist and Levi, eager to be taken for a "homey," complete with baggy pants, hoodies and the ever-present iPod. This family has no secrets--at least not for long. They talk about everything, appropriate to the occasion or not. And, there is plenty to talk about. The other half of the story is that of the Kipps family: Monty, stiff, wealthy ultra-conservative vocal Christian and Rembrandt scholar, whose book has been published. His wife Carlene is always slightly out of focus, and that's the way she wants it. She wafts over all proceedings, never really connecting with anyone. That seems to be

endemic in the Kipps household. Son Michael is a bit of a Monty clone and daughter Victoria is not at all what Daddy thinks she is. Indeed, Forster's advice, "Only connect," is lost on this group. The two academics have long been rivals, detesting each other's politics and disagreeing about Rembrandt. They are thrown into further conflict when Jerome leaves Wellington to get away from the discovery of his father's affair, lands on the Kipps' doorstep, falls for Victoria and mistakes what he has going with her for love. Howard makes it worse by trying to fix it. Then, Kipps is granted a visiting professorship at Wellington and the whole family arrives in Massachusetts. From this raw material, Smith has fashioned a superb book, her best to date. She has interwoven class, race, and gender and taken everyone prisoner. Her even-handed renditions of liberal and/or conservative mouthings are insightful, often hilarious, and damning to all. She has a great time exposing everyone's clay feet. This author is a young woman cynical beyond her years, and we are all richer for it. --Valerie Ryan.com

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