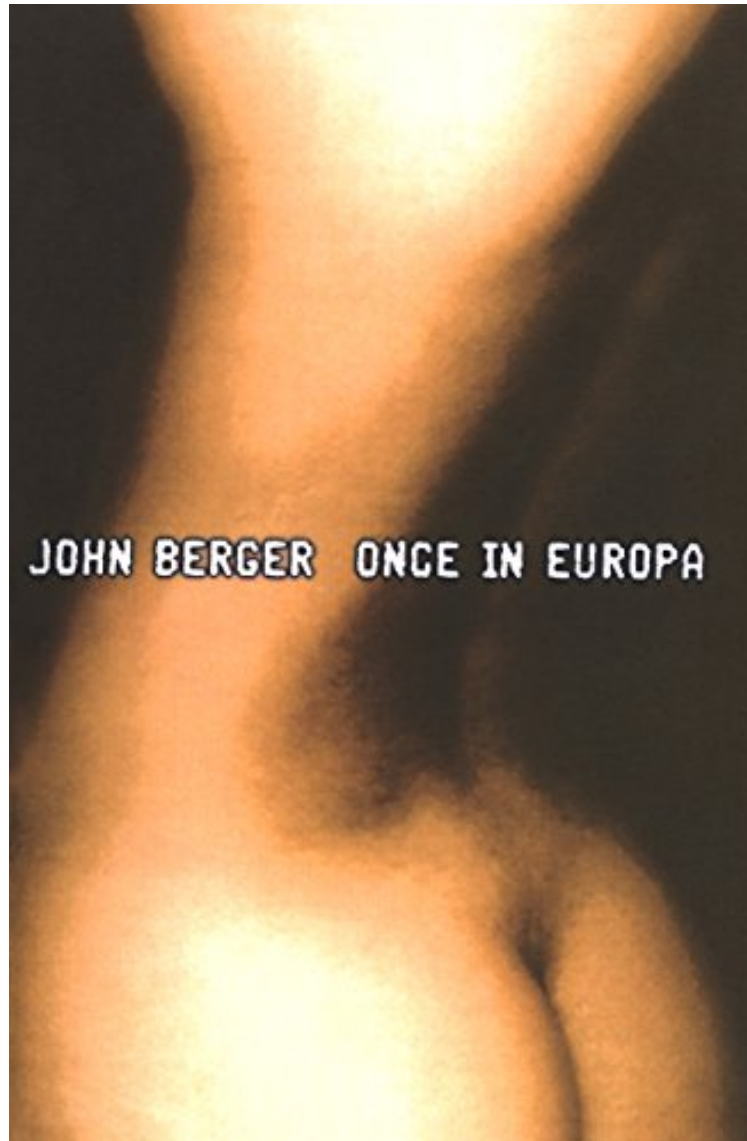


(Mobile book) Once in Europa

## Once in Europa

*Von John Berger*

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**Von John Berger : Once in Europa** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Once in Europa:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Demise of peasant farmingVon Alfred J. KwakJohn Berger (b. 1926) is an art critic, TV-documentary maker, painter and prolific author with distinctly left-wing leanings, who won the Booker prize for his 1972 novel G. To research Once in Europathe middle part of a much-praised triptych about change in peripheral regions in Europe in the early 1980she

spent years living in a tiny village in the alpine Haute Savoie. The result is five stunning stories about fate, hope, despair, love and isolation against a backdrop of globalisation and migration, where hell is symbolized by a cathedral-like, lethal, metal-producing complex of furnaces relying on hydropower and foreign workers living in barracks, working 24/7 for seven years as part of a multinational conglomerate. Non-judgemental and flowing, occasionally lyrical prose, lots of symbolism and authentic characters and surroundings make for a great reading experience. Berger's care for detail, gift for dialogue and his subject matter may have inspired e.g. Annie Proulx to set her books among (carefully-researched) people working with their hands in risky circumstances. But she would probably hate to be called a humanistic Marxist... 1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. poignant stories about love and loss Von Ein Kunde The long title story of this collection, "Once in Europa," is one of the best pieces of fiction I have ever read. Told from the point of view of a mother who is hang-gliding with her only son, the reader gets to hang-glide over the beautiful, sad, heartbreaking, ultimately redeeming landscape of her life. Berger is truly a master.

Kurzbeschreibung A collection of interwoven stories, this is a portrait of two worlds - a small Alpine village bound to the earth and by tradition, and the restless, future-driven culture that will invade it - at their moment of collision. The instrument of entrapment is love. Lives are lost and hearts broken.. de Once in Europa was first published by John Berger in 1987. Bloomsbury's reissue of this moving love story has been given a new and poignant twist with the addition of award-winning photographer Patricia Macdonald's remarkable colour images which punctuate Berger's lyrical tale of stoical romance in the midst of agrarian collapse and the depredations of heavy industry in Central Europe in the 1950s. Odile lives with her ageing father as he fights to retain his smallholding amidst the encroachment of the local steel works. She recounts that "the first sounds I remember are the factory siren and the noise of the river", and her idyllic childhood is increasingly eroded and replaced by the environmental destruction which the factory visits upon both its surroundings and those who work there: "the furnaces throbbed, the river flowed, the smoke, sometimes white, sometimes grey, sometimes yellow, thrust upwards into the sky, men worked night and day for generations, sweating, retching, pissing, coughing". Odile's promising school career is cut short as she falls in love with the communist steelworker Stepan. His sudden death at the factory, and the company's indifference to the pregnant Odile leave her destitute, ultimately finding solace in another victim of the factory's malign practices, the crippled Michel. The tragic impact of industrialisation upon a rural community is wonderfully judged by Berger, and there are passages of exquisite lyricism and stoicism as Odile attempts to eke out an existence for herself and her children. Macdonald's photographs beautifully complement the tone and atmosphere of Berger's text, especially her astonishing aerial photographs of urban and rural wildernesses. This is a sober snapshot of late 20th-century Europa. --Jerry Brotton.co.uk Once in Europa was first published by John Berger in 1987. Bloomsbury's reissue of this moving love story has been given a new and poignant twist with the addition of award-winning photographer Patricia Macdonald's remarkable colour images which punctuate Berger's lyrical tale of stoical romance in the midst of agrarian collapse and the depredations of heavy industry in Central Europe in the 1950s. Odile lives with her ageing father as he fights to retain his smallholding amidst the encroachment of the local steel works. She recounts that "the first sounds I remember are the factory siren and the noise of the river", and her idyllic childhood is increasingly eroded and replaced by the environmental destruction which the factory visits upon both its surroundings and those who work there: "the furnaces throbbed, the river flowed, the smoke, sometimes white, sometimes grey, sometimes yellow, thrust upwards into the sky, men worked night and day for generations, sweating, retching, pissing, coughing". Odile's promising school career is cut short as she falls in love with the communist steelworker Stepan. His sudden death at the factory, and the company's indifference to the pregnant Odile leave her destitute, ultimately finding solace in another victim of the factory's malign practices, the crippled Michel. The tragic impact of industrialisation upon a rural community is wonderfully judged by Berger, and there are passages of exquisite lyricism and stoicism as Odile attempts to eke out an existence for herself and her children. Macdonald's photographs beautifully complement the tone and atmosphere of Berger's text, especially her astonishing aerial photographs of urban and rural wildernesses. This is a sober snapshot of late 20th-century Europa. --Jerry Brotton