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## The Danish Girl

Von David Ebershoff

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**Von David Ebershoff : The Danish Girl** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Danish Girl:

Kundenrezensionen Hilfreichste Kundenrezensionen 0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A story you should know about. Von M. J. MUELLERI liked the novell very much, would have given 5 stars if the historical facts had been included right. The story of Einar/Lili as well as of her wife and friends, their thoughts and feelings are hard to compromise into a novell which has been done in a catching way. 0 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Would recommend watching the film over reading the book Von JackwillI had seen the film

before reading the book and have to draw the unusual conclusion that, for me, the former worked better. The book starts well enough but goes off, seemingly without good reason, on unnecessary tangents which fail to enhance the book. The metaphors seem laboured and as such, particularly when they fail, become irritating. If Mr. Ebershoff really mutated the true Danish Gerda into his fictional Californian Greta to give it more appeal to an American readership, that would be a sad statement both about himself as an author and the readers he wanted to appeal to. I wonder if the book might have worked better had the narrator alternated, either from Einar to Lily or been written partly from Einar/Lily's on the one hand and partly from Greta/Gerda's perspective on the other. In summary, I had a struggle to finish reading the book, not least because I didn't really feel endeared to any of the characters - shame because the story has so much potential. I can, however, recommend Jan Morris's account of her own experience of being transgender and ultimately undergoing surgery in Casbalanca: "Conundrum". 4 von 4 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. An Unusual Way To Become A Widow Von Bucherwurm This is a most unusual, perhaps unique novel of one man's journey from being a man to becoming a woman. Einar is Danish, and married to a California woman. They live in Denmark, and the story starts in the 1920s. There is a woman entrapped in Einar's body, and as the book progresses "Lili" becomes the predominant personality. Einar/Lili's wife Greta is supportive, and loves both persons. She and their circle of friends help Einar find a doctor who performs on Einar what is evidently the first transsexual operation. This book is based on a true event, but the author's motivation in writing the book is not to record history. He attempts to focus on the emotional life of the characters. What does Greta feel as her husband slowly fades away, and a young woman takes his place? How does Einar cope with his sexual confusion? I feel the author is not totally successful in meeting this literary challenge. Greta is almost saintly in her support. Would she not have gone through more emotional turmoil than is predicted here? For one thing their weak sex life all but disappeared shortly after they married. All of their friends are totally behind Greta and Einar. Were people in Europe in the 1920s that much more tolerant than 20th century Americans? Perhaps so, but the author seems to me to have buried an awful lot of feelings. I worked for many years in the field of mental health, and came across a few transsexual patients. They were seriously conflicted individuals. In any event this is a novel unlike any that I have read before. Highly recommended unless you find such topics threatening. This will probably not be choice reading for members of the Christian Coalition.

Kurzbeschreibung Nowan Academy Award-winning major motion picture, starring Academy Award-winners Eddie Redmayne and Alicia Vikander and directed by Academy Award-winner Tom Hooper National Bestseller \* A New York Times Notable Book \* Winner of the Lambda Literary Award for Transgender Fiction \* Winner of the Rosenthal Foundation Award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters \* Finalist for the New York Public Library Young Lions Award \* Finalist for the American Library Association Stonewall Book Award Loosely inspired by a true story, this tender portrait of marriage asks: What do you do when the person you love has to change? It starts with a question, a simple favor asked by a wife of her husband while both are painting in their studio, setting off a transformation neither can anticipate. Uniting fact and fiction into an original romantic vision, *The Danish Girl* eloquently portrays the unique intimacy that defines every marriage and the remarkable story of Lili Elbe, a pioneer in transgender history, and the woman torn between loyalty to her marriage and her own ambitions and desires. The Danish Girls lush prose and generous emotional insight make it, after the last page is turned, a deeply moving first novel about one of the most passionate and unusual love stories of the 20th century. From the Trade Paperback edition. de Though the title character of David Ebershoff's debut novel is a transsexual, the book is less concerned with transgender issues than the mysterious and ineffable nature of love. Loosely based on the life of Danish painter Einar Wegener who, in 1931, became the first man to undergo a sex-change operation, *The Danish Girl* borrows the bare bones of his story as a jumping-off point for an exploration of how Wegener's decisions affected the people around him. Chief among these is his Californian wife, Greta, also a painter, who unwittingly sets her husband's feet on the path to transformation. While trying to finish a portrait of an opera singer who has cancelled a sitting, she asks Einar to stand in for her subject, putting on her dress, stockings, and shoes. The moment silk touches his skin, he is shaken: Einar could concentrate only on the silk dressing his skin, as if it were a bandage. Yes, that was how it felt the first time: the silk was so fine and airy that it felt like a gauze--a balm-soaked gauze lying delicately on healing skin. Even the embarrassment of standing before his wife began to no longer matter, for she was busy painting with a foreign intensity in her face. Einar was beginning to enter a shadowy world of dreams where Anna's dress could belong to anyone, even to him. Greta soon recognizes her husband's affinity for feminine attire, and encourages him not only to dress like a woman, but to take on a woman's persona, as well. "Why don't we call you Lili?" she suggests. What starts out as a harmless game soon evolves into something deeper, and potentially threatening to their marriage. Yet Greta's love proves to be enduring if not immutable. As Einar inexorably transforms, he steps beyond "that small dark space between two people where a marriage exists" and Greta lets him go. Ebershoff does a remarkable job of historical prestidigitation, creating the sights and sounds and smells of 1930s Denmark and making it seem easy. Even more

remarkable is his treatment of Greta: he gets inside her head and heart, and renders her in such loving detail that her reactions make perfect sense. Einar is more of a cipher, and ultimately less interesting than his wife. But in the end, this is Greta's book and David Ebershoff has done her proud. The Danish Girl marks a promising fictional debut. -- Sheila Bright.co.uk

Though the title character of David Ebershoff's debut novel is a transsexual, *The Danish Girl* is less explicitly concerned with transgender issues than the mysterious and ineffable nature of love and transformation in relationships. Loosely based on the life of Danish painter Einar Wegener who, in 1931, became the first man to undergo a sex-change operation, *The Danish Girl* borrows the bare bones of his story as a starting point for an exploration of how Wegener's decisions affected the people around him. Chief among these is his Californian wife, Greta, also a painter, who unwittingly sets her husband's feet on the path to transformation when, trying to finish a portrait, she asks Einar to stand in for her female sitter. Putting on her clothes and shoes, he is shaken: Einar could concentrate only on the silk dressing his skin, as if it were a bandage. Yes, that was how it felt the first time: the silk was so fine and airy that it felt like a gauze--a balm-soaked gauze lying delicately on healing skin. Even the embarrassment of standing before his wife began to no longer matter, for she was busy painting with a foreign intensity in her face. Einar was beginning to enter a shadowy world of dreams where Anna's dress could belong to anyone, even to him. Greta encourages her husband not only to dress like a woman, but to take on a woman's persona, as well. What starts out as a harmless game soon evolves into something deeper, and potentially threatening to their marriage. Yet Greta's love proves to be enduring if not immutable. Ebershoff's historical prestidigitation is remarkable, making it seem easy to create the sights and sounds and smells of 1930s Denmark. Even more remarkable is his treatment of Greta: he gets inside her head and heart, and renders her in such loving detail that her reactions make perfect sense. Ebershoff's sensitivity to Greta is one of the finest achievements of this startling first novel; Einar is more of a cipher. In the end, this is Greta's book and David Ebershoff has done her proud. --Sheila Bright