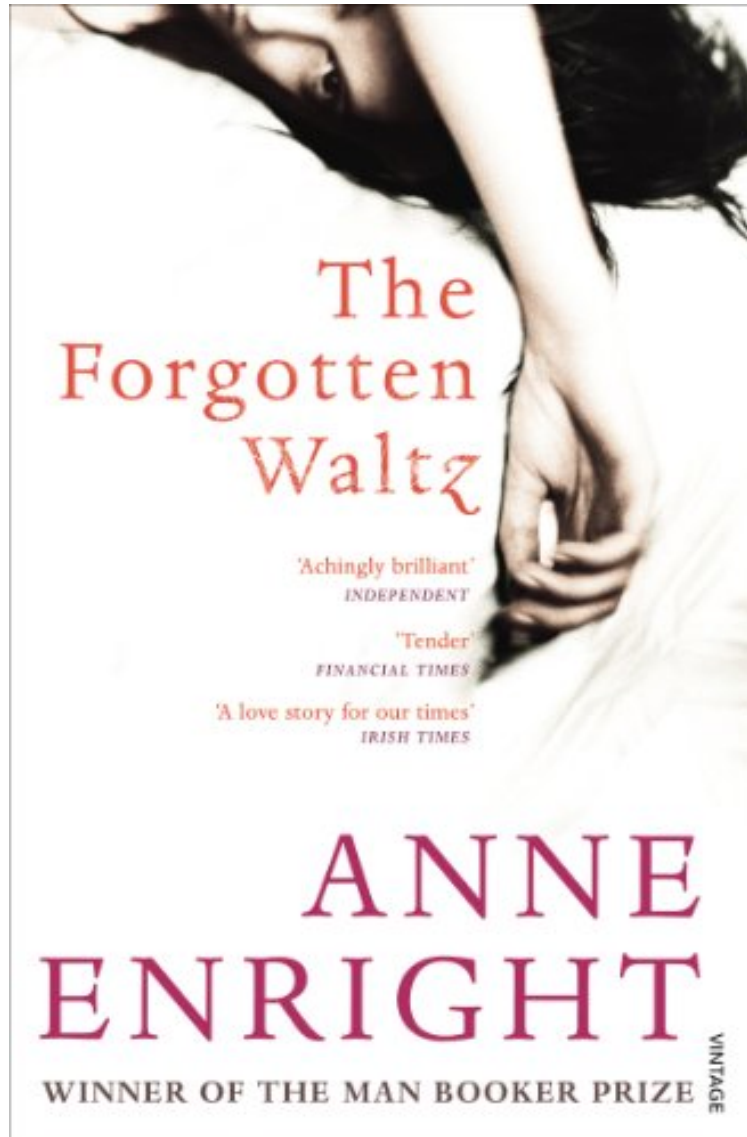


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The Forgotten Waltz

Von Anne Enright

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Von Anne Enright : The Forgotten Waltz before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Forgotten Waltz:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen2 von 2 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Bedingt empfehlenswertVon AliVorweg: Englisch ist nicht meine Muttersprache, auch wenn ich hufig in dieser Sprache lese. Fr die Lektre dieses Buches bedeutete dies eine gewisse Herausforderung, denn Enrights Schreibstil gehrt nicht zu den einfachen.Die Geschichte als solche ist schnell erzht und im Gegensatz zum Schreibstil recht alltglich:

Verheiratete Frau begegnet verheiratetem Mann mit Kind. Es entsteht eine heimliche Liebschaft, die irgendwann publik wird und zur Auflösung beider Ehen führt. Von Seiten des Mannes gibt es einiges, was ihm die Abkuppelung von seiner Erstfamilie erschwert. Allem voran seine Tochter Evie. Dies bedeutet, dass die neue Beziehung im Schatten von Schuldgefühlen und alten Verkrustungen steht, was vor allem Gina (Ex-Geliebte und nun Nachfolgelebensgefährtin von Sean) zu spüren bekommt, die sich den Bedürfnissen und Zeitarrangements von Sean und dessen Tochter zu fügen hat. Das Ganze wird aus der Sicht von Gina erzählt, die schonungslos und unverblümt ihren Gedanken und nicht immer "netten" Betrachtungen freien Lauf lässt, was hin und wieder irritierend wirkt in seiner ungefilterten Direktheit. Andererseits macht es doch auch den Reiz dieser ansonsten wenig bemerkenswerten Geschichte aus. Die Autorin bewertet Ginas Handeln nicht, obwohl man das Gefühl hat, dass sie "mehr weiß" als die Protagonistin, die sich scheinbar unaufhaltsam in die Lage der am Ende als Verliererin dastehende Nachfolgerin manvriert, auch wenn sie eigentlich bekommen zu haben scheint, was sie wollte. Enright hat, wie eingangs erwähnt, einen sehr eigenwilligen Stil, der mich einerseits angezogen hat und mir trotzdem gelegentlich zu viel wurde. Von daher: siehe Titel. 0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Just what is it that makes present-day adultery so utterly unappealing? Von illiterate girl Anne Enright's novel *The Forgotten Waltz* is another volume in the innumerable procession of contemporary fiction dealing with unfaithful wives and husbands. What is there to gain from being unfaithful? - one wonders when having read the umpteenth piece of fiction on adultery. Being far from one of those 19th century tragedies such as Tolstoy's *Anna Karenina*, Flaubert's *"Madame Bovary"* or Fontane's *"Effi Briest"*, where women try to escape from the burden of an unhappy marriage arranged for them as was the marriage policy of those times, there is no unhappiness for Gina, the heroine of Enright's novel, to escape from and, accordingly, there is nothing to gain from her affair except the excitement of a double life that will eventually cause pain to other people, especially her husband and her lover's wife and child. Gina is a young and attractive woman from Ireland in her early thirties, newly wed to, well, not the love of her life, who is yet to come in the person of a man, a lot older than she is, husband to a perfect wife and father of Evie, the apple of his eye, and an experienced adulterer on top of it as it turns out as the story continues. With Conor, Gina's husband, life is just fun, with Sen it eventually becomes spiced with all those irresistible emotions hard to withstand when happiness, security, loyalty and all the other benefits of a proper wife-husband-relationship are not enough. She, obviously, can get no satisfaction out of a life that leaves her emotional reservoir unchallenged. And satisfaction is not what she gets when she and Conor finally separate and she moves into her mother's deserted house after her death, providing an improvised shelter for her and her lover and, strangely enough, even for her lover's daughter who has turned twelve at the end of the novel. But their situation is still undecided, neither Gina nor Sen are divorced or will get a divorce in the near future, and it does not look like they will ever become an ordinarily married couple with offspring of their own. The details of Gina's and Sen's affair are hard to remember once you have finished the book, since there is nothing really fascinating in terms of events, reflections or emotions, neither enough joy nor suffering, that would leave any traces in the reader's mind, something to chew upon, at least for a while, as a reward for reading the novel. Of course, Sen and Gina, from whose perspective the novel is written, suffer what there is to suffer when their affair is uncovered by their spouses and families. And there are, of course, Gina's frequent half-hearted resolutions to end the affair, but each time she feels she would not be able to live without Sen - for reasons which remain a mystery to the reader, especially so since she finds considerable fault with him. The only answer one can find is on a psychological level, namely Sen's resemblance with her long deceased father in his tendency to criticise her looks and the way he dominates her life, obliging her to completely submit to his schedule, waiting for him to come and go as it suits him. Another crucial tie between them is Evie, Sen's daughter. His care and love for her reminds her of her father's care she enjoyed when she was a child, but she also suffered the lack of it since he was anything but a reliable and devoted husband and father, given to drinking as he was and to attacks of violence. It seems that there is a pattern engraved in Gina's emotional fabric which corresponds to the fabric woven into Sen's personality. Apart from the sheer ordinariness of the love affair, what makes the plot difficult to remember is the structure the authoress has chosen for rendering it. The novel is divided into two parts, the first of which narrates the development of Gina's and Sen's relationship in chronological order, although interspersed with remarks that allude to events that will invariably follow some time in the future and keep the reader in suspense. The second part, however, starts twenty-one months after her mother's death, which marks the end of the first part. It deals with the two last days in the story, but is loaded with Gina's reflections of what has happened since then. Living in her deceased parents' home where she spent her childhood and teenage life together with her sister Fiona, brings back a bounty of vivid memories of her parents and their somewhat complicated family life, which, surprisingly, become the most impressive narrative elements since they create a lively picture of her mother and her father. But the discontinuous way in which the single steps of the love affair are presented, this sketchy back and forth, is rather confusing, and more than once the reader loses track of what happens and why it happens. Adultery in itself, so it seems, is not an interesting enough topic unless it reveals something in the unfathomable realm of human passion hitherto unknown. Or, on the other hand, one would expect a great deal of humour and irony to compensate for the futility of all this yearning which is either doomed to a lifelong suffering or final disaster or drifts into the ordinariness of an average life, according to Sigmund Freud's wisely coined phrase that humans are not made for permanent happiness. Gabriele Deylitz 0 von 0 Kunden

fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. schwacher Roman Von Siegfried Herbst Bei einer Booker Prize Gewinnerin hatte ich mir mehr erwartet. Quälend uninteressantes Grbeln ber eine verfehlte Liebesbeziehung. Erst am Ende strker, wo es um die Epilepsie eines Kindes geht.

Kurzbeschreibung Shortlisted for The Orange Prize for Fiction If it hadn't been for the child then none of this might have happened. She saw me kissing her father. She saw her father kissing me. The fact that a child got mixed up in it all made us feel that it mattered, that there was no going back. Pressestimmen Masterful and deeply satisfying novel. -- Starred Anne Enright 's exhilarating novel The Forgotten Waltz explores a life-altering affair between two seemingly unremarkable Irish professionals with such exquisite attention, honesty, and wit as to make every sentence throb with life. Don't start this book if you have anything else to do for the rest of the day because it will not get done. [Our narrator,] Gina is not interested in what she 's supposed to feel but in what she does feel an ever-shifting, primal range of emotions that readers will recognize with delight. It 's that wonderful feeling that you get from the best fiction: Ah, at last somebody said it. --Kimberly Cutter It 's relatively rare for a sophisticated, thought-provoking novel to titillate, but Anne Enright 's new book The Forgotten Waltz is a scintillating exception to the rule. You know those books that unfold and surround you? This is one of those . Enright mesmerizes with her insights into the convoluted paths human thoughts and desires take . But besides its fierce intelligence, this book is just plain sexy. Enright 's shimmering prose captures the nuances of light and dark in nature and in society, and she deftly creates memorable characters living in the many and busy little nothings that form the drama of everyday life. Enright--wistful, equivocal, angry--gives voice to her characters with remarkable sympathy and precision, and she is never heavy-handed in tracing the connections between the private and public lives of capital. Anne Enright's exhilarating novel The Forgotten Waltz ... explores a life-altering affair between two seemingly unremarkable Irish professionals with such exquisite attention, honesty, and wit as to make every sentence throb with life. Don't start this book if you have anything else to do for the rest of the day because it will not get done. ... [Our narrator,] Gina is not interested in what she's supposed to feel but in what she does feel--an ever-shifting, primal range of emotions that readers will recognize with delight. It's that wonderful feeling that you get from the best fiction: Ah, at last somebody said it. --Kimberly Cutter It's relatively rare for a sophisticated, thought-provoking novel to titillate, but Anne Enright's new book The Forgotten Waltz is a scintillating exception to the rule.... You know those books that unfold and surround you? This is one of those.... Enright mesmerizes with her insights into the convoluted paths human thoughts and desires take.... But besides its fierce intelligence, this book is just plain sexy. Enright's shimmering prose captures the nuances of light and dark in nature and in society, and she deftly creates memorable characters living in the many and busy little nothings that form the drama of everyday life. Masterful and deeply satisfying novel. --Starred "The Forgotten Waltz is a nervy enterprise, an audacious bait-and-switch. Cloaked in a novel about a love affair is a ferocious indictment of the self-loved material girls our era has produced. Enright's channeling of Gina's interior monologue is so accurate and unsparing that reading the book is like eavesdropping on a very long, crazily intimate cellphone conversation. It's a testament to the unwavering fierceness of Enright's project that I mean this as high praise. We've all met people like the characters in her book. Neither evil nor good, they're merely awful in entirely ordinary ways. And it's impressive, how skillfully Anne Enright has gotten them on the page. --Francine Prose "In America we like our adultery served straight up: a bubble of illicit passion that ends in regret. That's not what Irish novelist Anne Enright is serving in The Forgotten Waltz, which forgoes the simple morality tale for something more complex and satisfying. Casting aside cultural bromides about the immorality of affairs, Enright puts us squarely in the center of a terrible truth: Love can be miraculous and still destroy everything in its path. --Lizzie Skurnick "[T]he novel is also a beautiful, subtle examination of intimacy, of family life, and of the enduring connection between father and daughter, a bond that wayward adult passion cannot override In The Forgotten Waltz reality is crystal clear and the damage that characters do to themselves and others sharply drawn, and yet Ms. Enright is never obvious or heavy-handed. She has made a careful study of the way people interpret and react to their parents, siblings, children and partners and captures much that is startlingly recognizable. The humorous details that she employs and the compassion that she shows for her flawed characters make the book luminous even as it tells a rather bleak story. --Clare McHugh "Anne Enright...has written a new, unapologetic kind of adultery novel. This novel's beauty lies in Enright's spare, poetic, off-kilter prose--at once heart-breaking and subversively funny. It's built of startling little surprises and one fresh sentence after another. Enright captures the heady eroticism of an extramarital affair and the incendiary egomania that accompanies secret passion... --Kate Christensen "There are said to be Chinese artists who can etch pretty little pictures on the surface of a grain of rice scenes that, with the help of a magnifying glass, are revealed in elaborate detail. Anne Enright's latest book, The Forgotten Waltz, evokes the same kind of wonder, with one significant difference: The scenes the author so delicately sketches are dark dramas of domestic dysfunction. In this case, Ms. Enright has penned an emotional autopsy of an infidelity. --Lisa Verge Higgins "Anne Enright's exhilarating novel The Forgotten Waltz explores a life-altering affair between two seemingly unremarkable Irish professionals with such exquisite attention,

honesty, and wit as to make every sentence throb with life. Don't start this book if you have anything else to do for the rest of the day because it will not get done. [Our narrator,] Gina is not interested in what she's supposed to feel but in what she does feel an ever-shifting, primal range of emotions that readers will recognize with delight. It's that wonderful feeling that you get from the best fiction: Ah, at last somebody said it. --Kimberly Cutter"It's relatively rare for a sophisticated, thought-provoking novel to titillate, but Anne Enright's new book *The Forgotten Waltz* is a scintillating exception to the rule. You know those books that unfold and surround you? This is one of those. Enright mesmerizes with her insights into the convoluted paths human thoughts and desires take. But besides its fierce intelligence, this book is just plain sexy. "Everything in [*The Forgotten Waltz*] is perfectly engineered, and it's so beautifully written that you could read it once just for the dazzle of the prose, then start over for the content. [T]his book makes me feel that Enright could do anything. It's hard to say which is more satisfying about this book: its emotional complexities or the frugal elegance of its prose. I suggest you climb into this book, lean back and trust Enright to take you wherever she wants to go. --Roxana Robinson"Anne Enright, 2007 Man Booker Prize winner for *The Gathering*, has once again brought the reader into the heart of a story as old as time, made brand new by her fine hand. Enright makes the mundane momentous with very few words. The immediacy with which she writes tells the reader to pay attention and look below the surface. Anne Enright is uncannily deft at portraying lust and passion as they morph into resignation and the realization that one marriage may be much like another. Addictive reading. --Valerie Ryan"For readers who can countenance unapologetic female infidelity (at least in fiction), *The Forgotten Waltz* is a must-read it delivers Enright's incantatory and highly mineralized prose, her virtuoso capturing of mood and confirms her ability to create nuanced characters of all ages and backgrounds. This mature novel practically flaunts a wry, take-no-prisoners narrator who can make you laugh and wince. --Holloway McCandless"*The Forgotten Waltz* is so darkly funny, and laser sharp, that it is possible to read it solely as a well-written adultery novel, an infidelity showstopper. But Enright is too interesting a writer to offer up merely an exquisitely written adultery drama. In the book she makes a profoundly insightful connection between adultery and overspending and borrowing. --Elizabeth Taylor"Booker winner Enright is so good, she can turn falling real estate values into a thing of beauty.--Ed ParkStarred review. ...[C]orrosively beautiful novel... A breathtaking work that will surprise you. Highly recommended.--Barbara HoffertThis stunning novel...offers up its brilliance by way of astonishingly effective storytelling. ...The vicissitudes of extramarital love...are tracked with a raw clarity expressed in magnetically precise prose.Enright wistful, equivocal, angry gives voice to her characters with remarkable sympathy and precision, and she is never heavy-handed in tracing the connections between the private and public lives of capital."Moving from the initial riptide of desire to the compromises of Gina's post-divorce life with her lover and his adolescent daughter, whose ungainly presence lends the book its fundamental poignancy, Enright suggests there's a quiet tragedy in adultery's modern-day ordinariness, in which the costs of betrayal are measured less in terms of shame than in house sales.--Megan O'GradyThis novel's beauty lies in Enright's spare, poetic, off-kilter prose--at once heart-breaking and subversively funny. It's built of startling little surprises and one fresh sentence after another. Enright captures the heady eroticism of an extramarital affair and the incendiary egomania that accompanies secret passion... --Kate ChristensenEnright's shimmering prose captures the nuances of light and dark in nature and in society, and she deftly creates memorable characters living in the many and busy little nothings that form the drama of everyday life."Amid the heartbreaking bewilderments of reconfigured families, Enright makes us believe entirely in the most ill-begotten brand of love.--Pam Houston*The Forgotten Waltz* is a nervy enterprise, an audacious bait-and-switch. Cloaked in a novel about a love affair is a ferocious indictment of the self-loved material girls our era has produced. Enright's channeling of Gina's interior monologue is so accurate and unsparing that reading the book is like eavesdropping on a very long, crazily intimate cellphone conversation. It's a testament to the unwavering fierceness of Enright's project that I mean this as high praise. We've all met people like the characters in her book. Neither evil nor good, they're merely awful in entirely ordinary ways. And it's impressive, how skillfully Anne Enright has gotten them on the page. --Francine ProseStarred review. In rueful, witty, unpredictable and compassionate prose, Enright gives expression to subtle, affecting shades of human interaction.Anne Enright tells a funny, dark, no-judgments tale of rapture and ambivalence. ... The real magic is in Enright's prose, which burrows into characters like fingernails into skin, peeling back the hidden layers of ordinary interactions and momentary thoughts. Material that another writer might string across a whole book, Enright burns up in a page, like it's nothing, using it to create a jagged portrait of Dublin during the recent boom.--Joy Press*The Forgotten Waltz* is so darkly funny, and laser sharp, that it is possible to read it solely as a well-written adultery novel, an infidelity showstopper. ... But Enright is too interesting a writer to offer up merely an exquisitely written adultery drama. In the book she makes a profoundly insightful connection between adultery and overspending and borrowing. --Elizabeth TaylorThe considerable narrative pleasures of this novel lie in Enright's luminous language, as she sketches Gina's attempts to figure out what happened and how and why.PressestimmenA "Globe and Mail" Best Book"From the Hardcover edition."