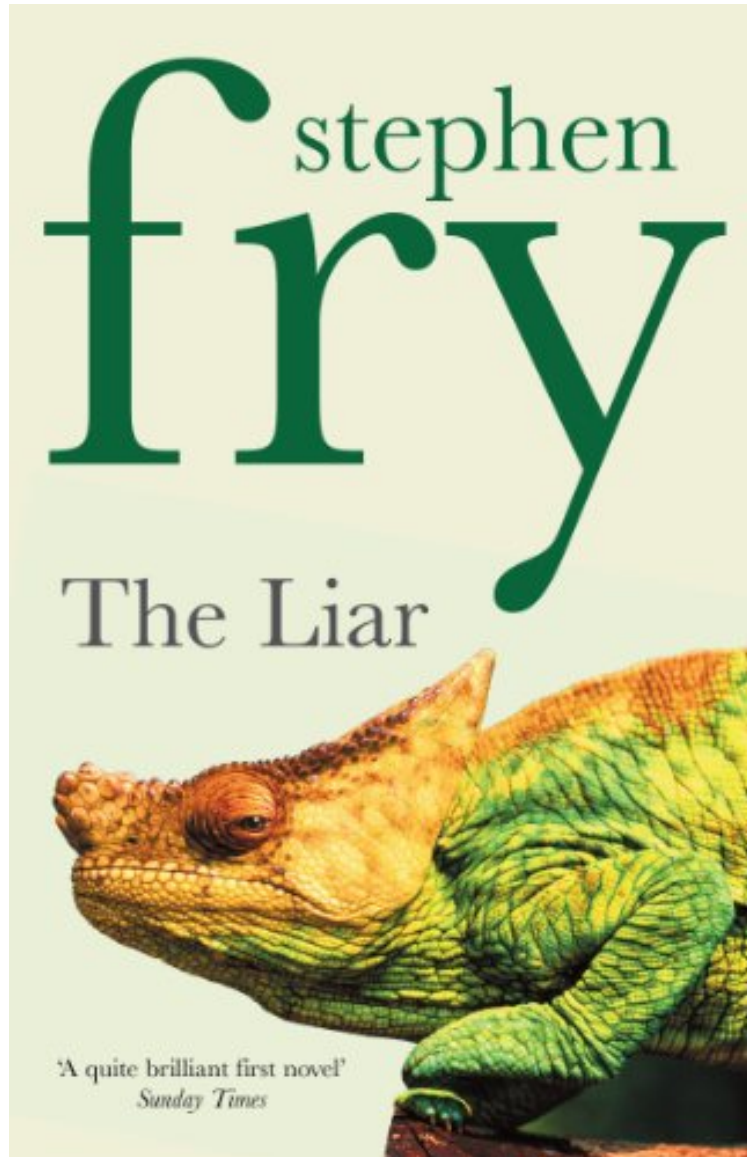


The Liar

Von Stephen Fry

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Von Stephen Fry : The Liar before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Liar:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen16 von 18 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Ah, he is a Frying genius.Von Ein KundeWell, Adrian does not belong to the kind of people one would like to call reliable and he most certainly is not easy to deal with. But luckily he is one of the most witty and interesting characters created

so far. Dunno where Stephen Fry gets his brilliant ideas from let alone his ability to play with language. Adolescent Adrian is one of the biggest liars that walk this earth - lying to teachers (good boy), to friends, to parents, to other relatives and very convincing and imaginative he is, too. Being convinced that he is the only "real" person in a strange game called life he has some serious problems with imagining others to have feelings as well. He creates his own world where he can be master, fooling everyone else just for the hell of it. Very fortunate for him after having spent a few years at a public school and unnerving everyone there he meets his master in Cambridge - old Professor Trefusius. "The old fart" finds him very amusing, challenges him and finally takes Adrian on a journey across Europe with dubious and dangerous people following them. It is a quest for some device, which, in the wrong hands, could cause considerable damage to the world. But nothing is what it seems and the quest will lead into Adrian finding out that there is a real world after all. Deep emotions play a major role in Stephen Fry's debut novel and he surely knows how to bring them alive. In case one has read his autobiography (first part of it) some clear connections with his own life will be discovered. But believe me, this only makes his outrageous first novel even better. Hm, and it will make you think again about the reliability of "old" manuscripts of classic writers. The world will be fooled. 1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Everything one could expect from an outstanding actor. Von Abacan_Empire@yahoo.com Follow the life story of Adrian Healey, from prep-school dandy to college ghost-writer, London catamite to international spy, and the result leaves nothing else to be desired from one of Britain's most genius comedians. Laced with its delicious undertones of intrigue, homosexuality, intelligentsia, and of course compulsive confabulations, 'The Liar' does for the reputation of the English education system what Bonnie and Clyde did for that of armed robbery: prose and poetry are eloquent and titillating; the reader is drawn into the stony facades of English schools with many a manic guffaw. The plot is simple enough to begin with: Adrian loves Hugo, and would do anything for (and to) him. Adrian circulates a lurid underground magazine and scandalizes his school. Adrian is expelled. From here onwards the plot thickens, as does the reader's bewilderment and enjoyment; the only real voice of recount is that of Adrian's - and he is a compulsive liar. Is he telling the truth? was he arrested for possession of cocaine whilst prostituting himself in the West End? Despite (or perhaps because of) his failings, Adrian continues his studies at Fry's very own Alma Mater - Cambridge - and is promptly reduced to plagiarizing his theses, forging teachers' signatures, and counterfeiting Dickensian plays. It comes as little surprise, then, that there is great demand for his flawless lying and total lack of scruples in the big world of espionage, although here the novel fragments somewhat and forces the reader to return to previously unexplained asides. Suffice it to say that Adrian begins to find himself completely outclassed by the ruthless, seamless professional liars of the world's top secret services... This is Fry's first, and though now facing competition with its later siblings, 'The Liar' stands as an admirably fun read. There is no sense of disgrace about this book to mar its entertainment value, dealing even as it does with such unlaudable matters as willful untruthfulness, drug-peddling, and Eng! lish schooling. The plot complicates and convolutes, and a second or third reading may be suggested in order to fully grasp the implications involved - but given the writer and the overall excellence of the book, this is hardly a disagreeable task. 1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Mein Name ist Fry... Stephen Fry... Von Ein Kunde Anders als Ian Fleming kommt Stephen Fry's "The Liar" ohne barbusige Bond-Girls und optische Effekte von der Grenordnung des Urknalles aus. Dafr knallt es bei dieser verworrenen Jagd durch Mitteleuropa zwischen den Ohren umso mehr. Fry beutelt den Leser mit so vielen verschiedenen Handlungsstrngen, scheinbar unwichtigen Details und verschiedenen Versionen von Licht, Schatten, Wahrheit und Lge, da es eine wahre Pracht ist, und der Leser am Ende nicht wei, ob die Puzzlestcke, die am Ende eines um andere in das Mosaik eingepat werden, nun tatschlich die Wahrheit darstellen, oder es sich wieder nur um einen diabolischen Geistestrick handelt, der zwei Seiten spter in allen Einzelheiten sezirt wird. Unglubig hlt man gegen Ende das Buch in der Hand, nur um es vorn wieder aufzuschlagen und von vorne zu beginnen. Wie in guten alten Miss-Marple-Filmen hat man das Gefhl ein wichtiges Detail von vornherein verpat zu haben, und tatschlich. Mit jedem Male vermag man neue Nuancen und Anspielungen zu entdecken, die sich erst dem aufmerksamen und vorbereiteten Leser erschlieen. Davon abgesehen berzeugt das Buch durch seinen Messerscharfen, schwarzen und urbritischen Humor, dem Fry ein guter Bekannter ist, sowie durch eine geschliffene, exakt-verspielte Sprache, bei der man mehr als einmal unwillkrlich schmunzeln mu. Ein Buch das jeden Pfennig wert ist, auch wenn Neider (Hugh Laurie) behaupten, es sei "an ein paar nassen Mittwochnachmittagen in Norfolk" entstanden... ;-) (Dies ist eine .de an der Uni-Studentenrezension.)

Kurzbeschreibung The brilliant and outrageous debut novel from British actor, comedian, author, presenter, journalist and national treasure, Stephen Fry. Stephen Fry's breathtakingly outrageous debut novel, by turns eccentric, shocking, brilliantly comic and achingly romantic. Adrian Healey is magnificently unprepared for the long littleness of life; unprepared too for the afternoon in Salzburg when he will witness the savage murder of a Hungarian violinist; unprepared to learn about the Mendax device; unprepared for more murders and wholly unprepared for the truth. The Liar is a thrilling, sophisticated and laugh out loud hilarious novel from a brilliantly talented writer. From Publishers

Weekly Fry is a British polymath--actor, journalist, playwright--who is currently on view here as the eponymous hero of the Kenneth Branagh movie *Peter's Friends*. This book, his first novel, was a huge critical and popular success in Britain in both cloth and paperback, and it is surprising that the book has taken almost two years to make its way across the Atlantic. Perhaps part of the reason is its obsession with such arcanelly British things as public school life, Cambridge academia and cricket. But it is coruscatingly funny, often quite shocking and profoundly irreverent. Its hero is Adrian Healey, who assumes a wildly gay persona (and is one of the few Wilde imitators who can verbally live up to the original) but whose besetting problem is a lack of contact with reality. Everything he does and says is a sly concoction, from his outre behavior at school and college to his period as a male prostitute ("rent-boy") in London to his schoolteaching days and his eventual involvement, with his college tutor, in a bizarre espionage caper involving a Hungarian "truth machine." The plot is in fact deliberately confusing and quite inconsequential. The book is enjoyable for its verbal dexterity, its often filthy but usually hilarious jokes and its reckless high spirits. Some readers may flinch from its callousness; many more will find themselves helpless with laughter. Copyright 1993 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Kirkus sComic actor/screenwriter Fry (the TV series *A Bit of Fry and Laurie*, etc.) weighs in with a fulsomely naughty first novel about a lascivious, blandly prevaricating English schoolboy cast adrift at public school, on the streets, at Cambridge, and in MI5. Adrian Healey--his chances in life already dented by his months as a London prostitute and his cocaine arrest--arrives at Cambridge with a reputation for insatiable sexual appetites ("Love was Adrian's guilty secret, sex his public pride") and a strong aversion to telling the truth. Challenged by Donald Trefusis, the Senior Tutor who catches him in plagiarism, to produce some kind--any kind--of original work, Adrian takes a breather from his romantic pursuit of Hugo Cartwright (whom he's already had briefly in a lav before he realized that this was True Love) to penetrate the college's extensive collection of Victorian pornography and ``discover" three chapters of *Peter Flowerbuck*, Dickens's lost pornographic masterpiece--which only Donald, of all the luminaries in the college, recognizes as Adrian's own work. Meantime, italicized interchapters have already suggested that (a) largely as a result of such high jinks, Donald will end up inveigling Adrian into an elaborate and dangerous spy plot to take delivery of *Mendax*, a device that prevents the user from lying, and (b) espionage l'anglaise is just as foppish and foolish as the groves of academe, which so often furnish its personae. The treatment throughout is manic, in-your-face, and taboo-busting in the tradition of Orton, Monty Python, and numberless graffiti artists. Chockablock with witless pranks, single-entendres, lesser dolts like Pigs Trotter and Dr. Humphrey Biffen, and allusions to Shakespeare, Saki, Wilde, and George Herbert. Too British in its calculated outrageousness to repeat its bestselling performance on this side of the Atlantic, but still dizzyingly, peerlessly sophomoric. (Film rights to Paramount) -- Copyright 1993, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.