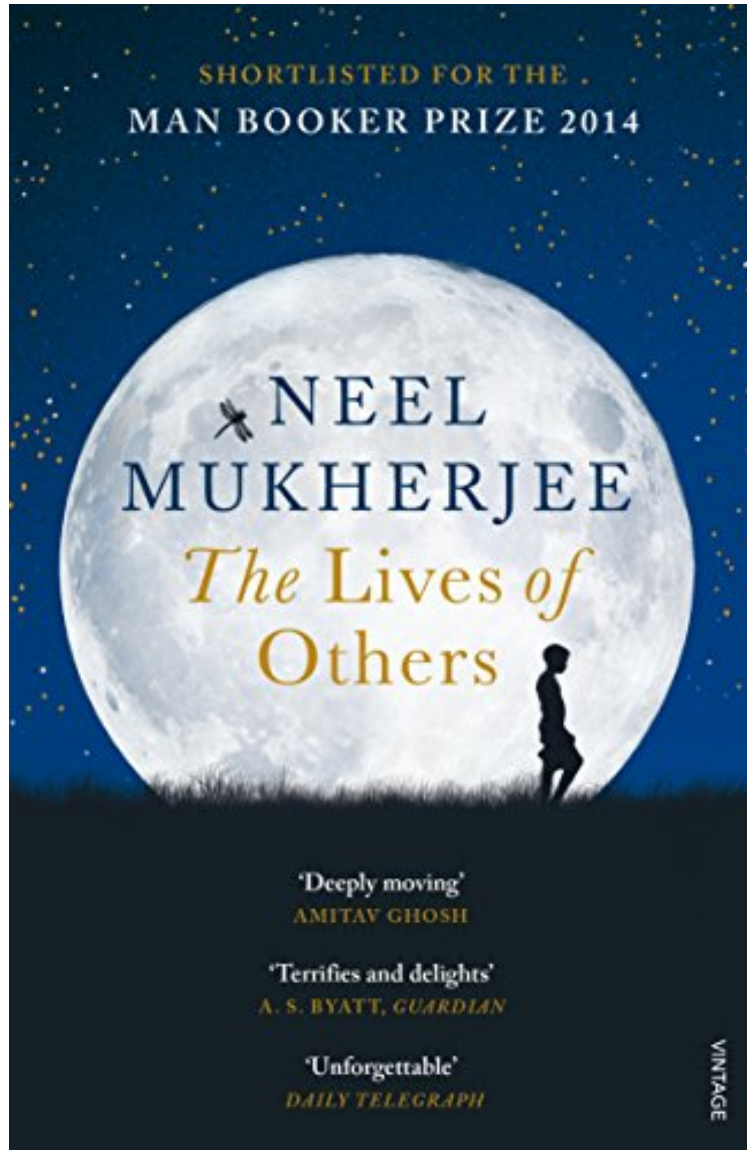


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The Lives of Others

Von Neel Mukherjee

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Von Neel Mukherjee : The Lives of Others before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Lives of Others:

Kundenrezensionen Hilfreichste Kundenrezensionen 2 von 2 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A very difficult book to read Von Johnny Nys It's been a long time since reading about the lives of others failed to captivate me. It took me 26 days to finish it. From a practical perspective, it was a very difficult book to read. I'm not familiar with Indian names, and was constantly checking the family tree at the beginning of the book (lucky it was there!)

because I kept forgetting who everyone was. Each character has a full name, a shortened name, and then there are also the different words to call particular family members (they don't just use "aunt" or "uncle"). The text is permeated with typical Indian words as well, and that's where you have to make a choice: either you keep checking the glossary in the back, very disruptive of the reading rhythm, or you just keep reading and hope that those things aren't all that important to the story. Then if that's not enough, Mukherjee also includes a lesson in mathematics, discussing prime numbers five pages in a row. Okay, I get it, you want to go over each family member's feelings, desires, dreams, nightmares, talents and flaws, but this gets really tiresome after a while, particularly for someone with no background knowledge of their society, culture, politics, religion or history. I closed the book being none the wiser, and with no idea what I'd actually read.

8 von 8 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Das Leben der Anderen - das Leiden der Anderen Von St. Neel Mukherjee's Buch zeichnet ein sehr intensives Bild der indischen Gesellschaft in den 60er Jahren zum einen von der Seite einer wohlhabenden Familie, deren Wohlstand aber auf tnernen Fen steht und zum anderen von der Welt der landlosen Bevlkerung, die ums schiere berleben kmpft. Der Hauptprotagonist ist ein aktives Mitglied der Naxalite Bewegung und vereint diese beiden Welten. Besonders gut haben mir die inneren Dialoge und Gedankengnge der unterschiedlichen Charaktre gefallen, die sehr deutlich illustrieren, wie unterschiedlich der Blick auf eine Gesellschaft und Lebenssituation von Menschen in unterschiedlichen Klassen / Kasten etc. sein kann. An manchen Stellen hat das Buch ein paar kleine Lngen, aus diesem Grund habe ich keine 5 Sterne gewhlt. Dennoch ist dies eine Empfehlung fr alle, die sich fr Indien, fr die Naxalite Bewegung oder fr gesellschaftliche Fragen von Klasse und Milieu interessieren. Die Fragen, die dort aufgeworfen werden, sind nicht nur historisch relevant! 1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A very good book Von Sayantan Auddy A book which most definitely is not for everyone. A lot of characters and frequent references to Bengali customs/names etc. make reading this book a somewhat challenging experience for those not familiar with these things. However on the other hand, this is a book which has moved me immensely. The way of life in Calcutta of the 1960/70s had been vividly portrayed and feels very real. The tumultuous Naxalite period has been illustrated from a personal perspective. The anger, fear, anxiety of the people, and the uncertainty of that era have been captured very well. For me this was a fantastic read. Coming back to my point of phrases or names which may seem like a hindrance to readers who are unfamiliar with Indian culture or societal norms, I have to say that many a time reading a book which is set in a foreign or unfamiliar time and place, is like traveling to a new country. This experience opens up so many avenues of discovering unknown things and learning about a place which is different from our own. I have had this experience while reading books by Murakami, Hosseini, Beaty and others. But everyone, I have been enriched and learnt something new. I guess it's a very individual thing. Either you are content with only exploring known territory, or you like to wander out and discover new places. The Lives of Others has the promise of being that uncharted territory for anyone who wants to explore it.

Kurzbeschreibung Shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize Shortlisted for the Costa Novel Award Winner of the Encore Award Shortlisted for the DSC Prize for South Asian Literature Longlisted for the IMPAC Prize Calcutta, 1967. Unnoticed by his family, Supratik has become dangerously involved in extremist political activism. Compelled by an idealistic desire to change his life and the world around him, all he leaves behind before disappearing is a note. At home, his family slowly begins to unravel. Poisonous rivalries grow, the once-thriving family business implodes and destructive secrets are unearthed. And all around them the sands are shifting as society fractures, for this is a moment of turbulence, of inevitable and unstoppable change. Deeply moving Amitav Ghosh Terrifies and delights A S Byatt, Guardian Unforgettable Daily Telegraph Pressestimmen "Masterful . His fierce intelligence and sophisticated storytelling combine to produce an unforgettable portrait of one family riven by the forces of history and their own desires." (Patrick Flanery Daily Telegraph) "Rich and engrossing . Consistently vivid and well realised, it confidently covers a great deal of varied social terrain. . Unfailingly interesting" (Theo Tait Sunday Times) "Very ambitious and very successful. . One of Mukherjee's great gifts is precisely his capacity to imagine the lives of others. . Neel Mukherjee terrifies and delights us simultaneously" (A S Byatt Guardian) "Deeply affecting and ambitious ... In startling imagery that sears itself into the mind, The Lives of Others excellently exposes the gulf between rich and poor, young and old, tradition and modernity, us and them, showing how acts of empathy are urgently needed to bridge the divides." (Anita Sethi Observer) "Neel Mukherjee has written an outstanding novel: compelling, compassionate and complex, vivid, musical and fierce." (Rose Tremain) "Full of acute, often uncomfortable and angry, observations, The Lives of Others is a picture of a family in all its disunity, and beyond it a city and country, on the brink of disaster." (The Times) "A Sethi-ian narrative feast with dishes to spare ... a graphic reminder that the bourgeois Indian culture western readers so readily idealize is sustained at terrible human cost" (Patrick Gale Independent) "Expansive and often brilliant. Mukherjee spares the reader nothing. yet his command of storytelling is so astounding, he draws the reader into places they would prefer not to look" (Claire Allfree Metro) "The writing is unfailingly beautiful . Resembles a tone poem in its dazzling orchestration of the crescendo of domestic racket. His

eye is as acute as his ear: the physicality of people and objects is delineated with a hyper-aesthetic vividness .." (Jane Shilling New Statesman)"Neel Mukherjee has given us a picture of India that cuts through history, social classes and regions but centers on a nouveau pauvre family. Every scene is rendered with a Tolstoyan clarity and compassion." (Edmund White)"A devastating portrayal of a decadent society and the inevitably violent uprising against it, in the tradition of such politically charged Indian literature as the work of Prem Chand, Manto and Mulk Raj Anand. It is ferocious, unsparing and brutally honest." (Anita Desai)"Brilliant" (Alexander Gilmour FT)"Powerful. Mukherjee's depiction of the tangled system that develops when so many members of a family live under one roof is superb. In clear yet lyrical prose, Mukherjee carefully explores not just what it means to be part of a family, but what it means to be part of an unequal society. It's impossible not to be utterly engaged by this intelligent and moving epic" (Anna Carey Sunday Business Post)"Compelling, affecting, intelligent and surprising. Bold and striking. Worked out with precision and gracefulness. Ambitious and eloquent, and in forgoing exoticism captures genuine humanity" (Stuart Kelly Scotland on Sunday)"The Lives of Others is searing, savage and deeply moving: an unforgettably vivid picture of a time of turmoil." (Amitav Ghosh (www.amitavghosh.com/blog))

WerbetextAn epic saga telling the story of a Bengali family in Calcutta - exploring a family that is decaying as the society around it fractures, and one young man who tries to reimagine his place in the world.