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Birds Without Wings

Von Louis de Bernieres
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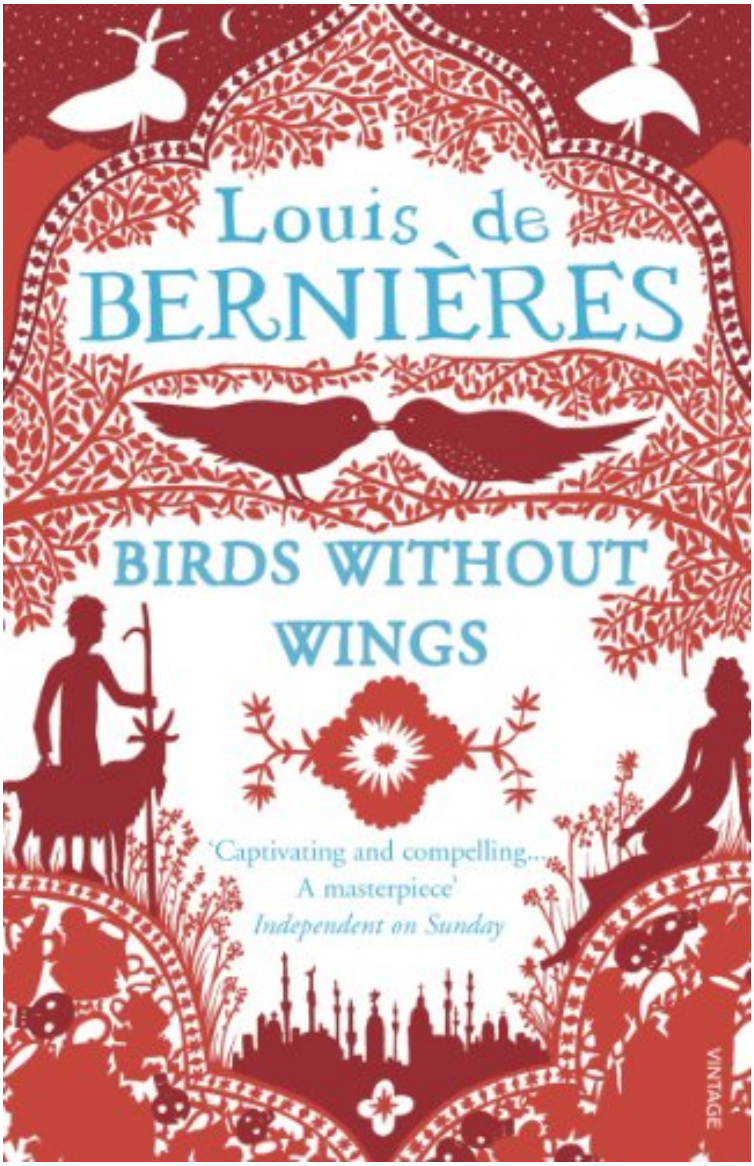

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Von Louis de Bernieres : Birds Without Wings before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Birds Without Wings:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Eines der besten Bcher, die ich je gelesen habeVon LeseratteDas Buch ist sprachlich hervorragend bersetzt. Die ausgewhlte Sprache im Original wurde meist gut ins Deutsche bertragen. Die Geschichte selbst vermittelt ein derart feines Gefhl fr die Zeit und was Krieg fr das Leben einfacher Menschen bedeutet. Die Abgrnde zeigen sich in der Geschichte sowohl

im einzelnen Leben, als auch Weltpolitisch. Meisterhaft erzhlt! Es haben sich mir durch die Lektre dieses Buches vllig neue Sichtweisen auf den 1. Weltkrieg erffnet. Dass Zusammenleben verschiedener Kulturen gut funktionieren kann, lebt das kleine Dorf zu Beginn der Erzhlung vor. Dass Weltpolitik dies zu zerstren vermag, kommt an diesem Beispiel leider sehr anschaulich herber. Aktueller denn je!4 von 4 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A flight through little known historyVon Xanthe HallThis is truly a masterpiece by de Bernieres. The little known history of the fall of the Ottoman empire and Turkish independence is brought to life through the stories of its Turkish, Armenian and Greek characters, who up until their enforced separation lived a colourful existence together. The description of the first world war trenches is so disgusting that anyone reading it would become instantly anti-war. One must, however, have a strong stomach for some passages, that often too vividly bring the atrocities found in any war to life. The story of Mustapha Kemal (Atatrk) is wound through the other stories of more ordinary folk and he comes across as the ambivalent figure in history that he is, the man who secured independence for Turkey, while deporting all Christians to do so. A marvellous book, that I enjoyed every page of, even when it was sadder than many in its outcome.2 von 2 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Fabulous - educational and heart-rendingVon Ein KundeThe long wait for Louis de Berniere's follow-up novel to the excellent "Captain Corelli's Mandolin" was not in vain. BWW is the superlative novel, combining a social commentary, history (without being at all boring or overly factual), wry wit in the form of the author's well-pronounced style of writing and lots of emotion. The descriptions of a soldier's life in the trenches of the Galipoli campaign were stomach-churning but not at all gratuitiously grisly as they could have been. Set in what is now Turkey at the end of the Ottoman Empire, the novel covers the horrors of war, racial and religious hatred, the impact of ethnic cleansing on a community and national fanaticism. I found the overall tone of the novel, like in his other works, is that it is normal people going about their daily lives that suffer the most at the hands of those in power: those who inflict this suffering, such as the revered Ataturk, emerge unscathed and glorious. De Bernieres does not shy away from revealing the many faults of those who have gone down in history as great men.The anti-war theme seen in CCM and the impact it can have on soldiers is here, as is de Berniere's touching portrayals of a community's every day existence, all tied up with the hidden, underlying message that it is love that makes life worth living despite all the hardship and suffering people inflict on each other: love between a man and a woman, between comrades and friends and the love humans have for creatures weaker than themselves, i.e. animals.The subject matter may be bleak, but the author has the unique talent for showing the beauty of life amid all the ugliness and hatred. This is a great novel. Bravo Louis de Bernieres!

KurzbeschreibungSet against the backdrop of the collapsing Ottoman Empire, the Gallipoli campaign and the subsequent bitter struggle between Greeks and Turks, Birds Without Wings traces the fortunes of one small community in south-west Anatolia - a town in which Christian and Muslim lives and traditions have co-existed peacefully for centuries. When war is declared and the outside world intrudes, the twin scourges of religion and nationalism lead to forced marches and massacres, and the peaceful fabric of life is destroyed. Birds Without Wings is a novel about the personal and political costs of war, and about love: between men and women; between friends; between those who are driven to be enemies; and between Philothei, a Christian girl of legendary beauty, and Ibrahim the Goatherd, who has courted her since infancy. Epic in sweep, intoxicating in its sensual detail, it is an enchanting masterpiece.From Publishers WeeklyIt's been nearly a decade since Captain Corelli's Mandolin became a word-of-mouth bestseller (and then a major feature film), and devotees will eagerly dig into de Bernires' sweeping historical follow-up. This time the setting is the small Anatolian town of Eskibahe, in the waning days of the Ottoman Empire. The large cast of characters of intermixed Turkish, Greek and Armenian descent includes breathtakingly lovely Philothei, a Christian girl, and her beloved Ibrahim, the childhood friend and Muslim to whom she is betrothed. The narrative immediately sets up Philothei's death and Ibrahim's madness as the focal tragedy caused by the sweep of historybut this is a bit of a red herring. Various first-person voices alternate in brief chapters with an authorial perspective that details the interactions of the town's residents as the region is torn apart by war; a parallel set of chapters follows the life of Kemal Atatrk, who established Turkey as a modern, secular country. The necessary historical information can be tedious, and stilted prose renders some key characters (like Philothei) one-dimensional. But when de Bernires relaxes his grip on the grand sweep of historyas he does with the lively and affecting anecdotes involving the Muslim landlord Rustem Bey and his wife and mistressthe results resonate with the very personal consequences that large-scale change can effect. Though some readers may balk at the novel's sheer heft, the reward is an effective and moving portrayal of a way of lifeand livesthat might, if not for Bernires's careful exposition and imagination, be lost to memory forever. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.From Booklist*Starred * With a village in southwest Turkey as a microcosm, de Bernieres (Corelli's Mandolin, 1995) offers an impressive view of this region during the early twentieth century, a tumultuous period marking the end of the Ottoman empire and the birth of the Turkish republic. In Eskibahce, inhabited by a delightful and diverse population, tradesmen make their living, children play happily, and the followers of priest Father

Kristoforos and imam Abdulhamid Hodja are friends, with Muslims in distress making offerings to a Christian saint. (Here too Philothei, a Christian girl so distractingly beautiful that she is veiled, is betrothed to Muslim Ibrahim, a love that ends tragically.) But world events intervene, conscripting the men, removing the Armenians, and finally relocating people solely on the basis of religion, tearing apart communities as Christians are sent to Greece and Muslims to Turkey. The true story of Mustafa Kemal, military genius and Turkey's first president, is interwoven with accounts--humorous, horrific (in describing the effects of war), and luminously moving--by and about the people of Eskibahce. De Bernieres' canvas is wide, as he sketches political movements and takes religion and nationalism to task, but his characters' stories are intimate, creating a wonderfully rich and timely epic. Michele LeberCopyright American Library Association. All rights reserved