

[Read download] Birdsong

## Birdsong

*Von Sebastian Faulks*

*DOC | \*audiobook | ebooks | Download PDF | ePub*

# BIRDSONG


THE NOVEL OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR



# SEBASTIAN FAULKS

With a new introduction from the author

VINTAGE

 Download

 Read Online

Produktinformation - Verkaufsrang: #28881 in eBooks Veröffentlicht am: 2010-02-23 Erscheinungsdatum: 2010-02-23 File Name: B0031RS68M | File size: 19.Mb

**Von Sebastian Faulks : Birdsong** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Birdsong:

Kundenrezensionen Hilfreichste Kundenrezensionen 4 von 4 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Sebastian Faulks has captured WWI Von Ein Kunde Mr. Faulks puts his readers in the trenches. What impressed me about "Birdsong" was the frontline view I was given of WWI. I was unaware of the underground tunneling that went on on both sides. We are taught that WWI was "trench war." Reading this book made it very clear what a terrible thing

"trench war" was. However, Mr. Faulk does not do as well with the flashbacks from the 1970's; I found these sections an annoying literary device. That is why I gave this book only four stars out of five. If Mr. Faulks removed the 1970 flashback sequences, I think this book could clearly be called a classic WWI novel! Faulks created believable characters in extreme circumstances (except for the shallow and annoying characters he created for the 1970 flashback sections). His descriptions of the inner thoughts, feelings, and experiences of his main characters are breathtaking. I hope to read more from this author. 3 von 3 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. horrific yet educational account of trench warfare Von lazza Birdsong was given to me by a colleague who said it was "a GREAT book". Judging by its subject matter (World War I) I wouldn't have normally touched it let alone read it (..war novels/films are either too depressing or a thin excuse for some flag-waving). Well I am delighted to have read Birdsong. It's not a great book (in my judgement); it doesn't cover new ground in re-telling the horrors of war. But it is well-structured, moving, and keeps focused on finite (and often forgotten) aspects of the Great War - specifically, trench warfare. Mr. Faulks leaves out nothing in describing the unspeakable horrors our forefathers (..from both sides) have suffered. Absolutely shocking and nauseating, yet it's really compulsive reading. While Faulks succeeds in telling the human anguish of those who suffered during the war, he fails in one minor aspect of the novel when he "fast forwards" to scenes of the late 1970s where the granddaughter of a soldier feels compelled suddenly to learn more of her departed grandfather. While the author's heart was in the right place, this minor aspect of Birdsong comes off a bit contrived. Nonetheless I fully recommend Birdsong. It makes for gruesome reading, so it's not for the squeamish. But I hope others will give it a try and, like me, feel as though they learned something new by it. 3 von 3 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. What a disappointment Von Ein Kunde One of the joys of using .com is reading the customer reviews of books I'm considering--this, actually, is 's strongest selling point, in my consideration. So, after seeing so many glowing reviews of this book, and having read *The Girl at the Lion d'Or*, I snatched this one and dove in. Ugh. Perhaps I have too high standards (Wallace Stegner has yet to be topped, Christopher Tilghman is coming along quite nicely, and there's always Flannery O'Connor) to be fair. This book is a drag. Yes, the battle scenes are engrossing, but go read Barbara Tuchman or the classic *All's Quiet on the Western Front* to get a grip on WWI. Romance? Stephen never demonstrates a deep understanding of what real love could be, except perhaps for his fellow lieutenant. And Faulks could have left the daughter out altogether, as she compares only with another annoying Brit, Bridget Jones. This book could have been so wonderful, yet all I could do was trudge through, hoping it might be a poor cousin to *A Soldier of the Great War*. Read that, and leave this on the shelf.

Kurzbeschreibung A novel of overwhelming emotional power, *Birdsong* is a story of love, death, sex and survival. Stephen Wraysford, a young Englishman, arrives in Amiens in northern France in 1910 to stay with the Azaire family, and falls in love with unhappily married Isabelle. But, with the world on the brink of war, the relationship falters, and Stephen volunteers to fight on the Western Front. His love for Isabelle forever engraved on his heart, he experiences the unprecedented horrors of that conflict - from which neither he nor any reader of this book can emerge unchanged. Readers who are entranced by the sweeping Anglo sagas of Masterpiece Theatre will devour *Birdsong*, Sebastian Faulks's historical drama. A bestseller in England, there's even a little high-toned erotica thrown into the mix to convince the doubtful. The book's hero, a 20-year-old Englishman named Stephen Wraysford, finds his true love on a trip to Amiens in 1910. Unfortunately, she's already married, the wife of a wealthy textile baron. Wraysford convinces her to leave a life of passionless comfort to be at his side, but things do not turn out according to plan. Wraysford is haunted by this doomed affair and carries it with him into the trenches of World War I. *Birdsong* derives most of its power from its descriptions of mud and blood, and Wraysford's attempt to retain a scrap of humanity while surrounded by it. There is a simultaneous description of his present-day granddaughter's quest to read his diaries, which is designed to give some sense of perspective; this device is only somewhat successful. Nevertheless, *Birdsong* is an unflinching war story that is bookended by romances and a rewarding read. Readers who are entranced by sweeping historical sagas will devour *Birdsong*, Sebastian Faulks' drama set during the first world war. There's even a little high-toned erotica thrown into the mix to convince the doubtful. The book's hero, a 20-year-old Englishman named Stephen Wraysford, finds his true love on a trip to Amiens in 1910. Unfortunately, she's already married, the wife of a wealthy textile baron. Wraysford convinces her to leave a life of passionless comfort to be at his side, but things do not turn out according to plan. Wraysford is haunted by this doomed affair and carries it with him into the trenches of the war. *Birdsong* derives most of its power from its descriptions of mud and blood, and Wraysford's attempt to retain a scrap of humanity while surrounded by it. There is a simultaneous description of his present-day granddaughter's quest to read his diaries, which is designed to give some sense of perspective; this device is only somewhat successful. Nevertheless, *Birdsong* is a rewarding read, an unflinching war story and a touching romance.