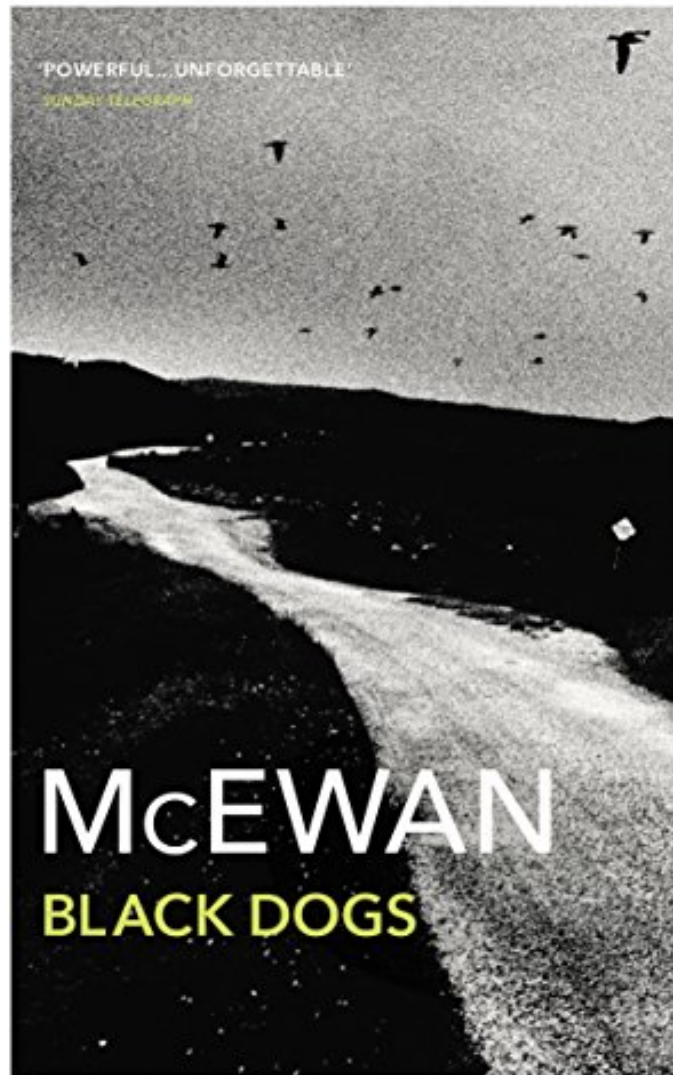


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Black Dogs

Von Ian McEwan

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Produktinformation -Verkaufsrank: #258489 in eBooksVerffentlicht am: 2010-01-20Erscheinungsdatum: 2010-03-11File Name: B00354YA72 | File size: 77.Mb

Von Ian McEwan : Black Dogs before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Black Dogs:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen2 von 2 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich.
SublimeVon Lisa SchweitzerI loved this story: it stayed with me for days. The writing is enviably beautiful and rich; the theme is intelligent and challenging. Ostensibly, the debate between mysticism versus rationalism sunders Bernard and June. But each of the combatants possesses the worst traits of the other's ideology. Bernard has a slavish faith in

the scientific method, while June feels the necessity to shore up her spirituality with flawless rhetoric and argumentation. They must both explain: and the irony is that their marriage ends, even though they are both talking about the same thing: the truth as they perceive it. While this certainly isn't a new theme (postmodernism and its subsequent backlash has provided us with a lot of reading lately), McEwan handles it creatively and respectfully. He gives us no answers and never insults our intelligence. Finally, McEwan brings up the question of evil and how we respond to it. In one situation, our narrator would turn away from it given his choice (when Bernard faces the mob, and the narrator doesn't); in another situation, the narrator confronts evil in another, bigger man and in himself. It is a short, worthwhile, well-crafted read. 2 von 2 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Brilliant, beautiful prose. Von Ein Kunde A good book that is best appreciated for the unbelievable beauty of the author's prose. McEwan writes sentences that normal humans -- or even talented writers -- could not pen in a 100 years. There's no one I've read that compares. 3 von 4 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A great read, pure McEwan. Von Ein Kunde McEwan has the ability to capture in 170 pages what many writers struggle with for a lifetime-- A great thought-provoking story with interesting characters, written in amazingly fluid prose. I preferred this novel his more recent Amsterdam. The later is recommended but not as conclusive, Blackdogs on the other hand is a more rounded journey through complex relationships.

Kurzbeschreibung In 1946, June and Bernard set off on their honeymoon. Fired by their ideals and passion for one another, they had planned an idyllic holiday, but in France they witness an event that alters the course of their lives entirely. Forty years on, their son-in-law is trying to uncover the cause of their estrangement and is led back to this moment on honeymoon and an experience of such darkness it was to wrench the couple apart. From Publishers Weekly In this slim, provocative novel, McEwan (*The Innocent*) examines the conflict between intellect and feeling, as dramatized in one couple's troubled relationship. The narrator is fascinated by his wife's estranged parents, The lives of June and Bernard Tremaine, whose lives epitomize the tug-of-war between political engagement and a private search for ultimate meaning: their ideological and spiritual differences force them apart but never diminish their mutual love. The catalytic event in the Tremaines' lives occurs on their honeymoon in France in 1946. With the characteristic idealism of their generation, both had joined the Communist Party, but June is already becoming disenchanted with its claims. In an encounter with two huge, ferocious dogs--incarnations of the savagely irrational eruptions that recur throughout history--she has an insight that illumines for her the possibility of redemption. Liberally foreshadowed, --the bloodthirsty beasts are used as an overarching metaphor for the presence of evil in the world-- the actual episode with the dogs is not depicted until the book's final section, where its impact requires the reader to take a leap of faith similar to June's. For some this pivotal scene may not be fully convincing. Indeed, McEwan is rather too didactic in the exposition of his theme, so one may expect too much from the novel's dramatic main event. Yet the work is impressive; McEwan's meticulous prose, his shaping of his material to create suspense, and his adept use of specific settings--Poland's Majdanek concentration camp, Berlin during the dismantling of the Wall, a primitive area of the French countryside--produce a haunting fable about the fragility of civilization, always threatened by the cruelty latent in humankind. Copyright 1992 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal Having lost his parents in an auto accident when he was eight years old, the narrator of McEwan's splendid new novel is fascinated with other people's parents--particularly his remarkable in-laws, indissolubly linked yet estranged and combative almost since their wedding. A man of reason who was once a Communist, Bernard Tremaine cannot understand why his wife, June, rejected political activism for spiritual quest after "an encounter with evil" in the form of two fierce black dogs. McEwan does not so much tell their story as the story of the son-in-law's efforts to understand them better by writing about them. Though Bernard and June represent diametrically opposed ways of looking at the world--two views beautifully and succinctly captured by McEwan--they are not mere vessels of thought but lively, distinctive characters in their own right. As the narrator returns to the French countryside where June fatefully encountered the dogs, the deceptively simple buildup makes her brush with violence all the more shocking. A novel of ideas with the hard edge of a thriller; highly recommended.-Barbara Hoffert, "Library Journal" Copyright 1992 Reed Business Information, Inc.