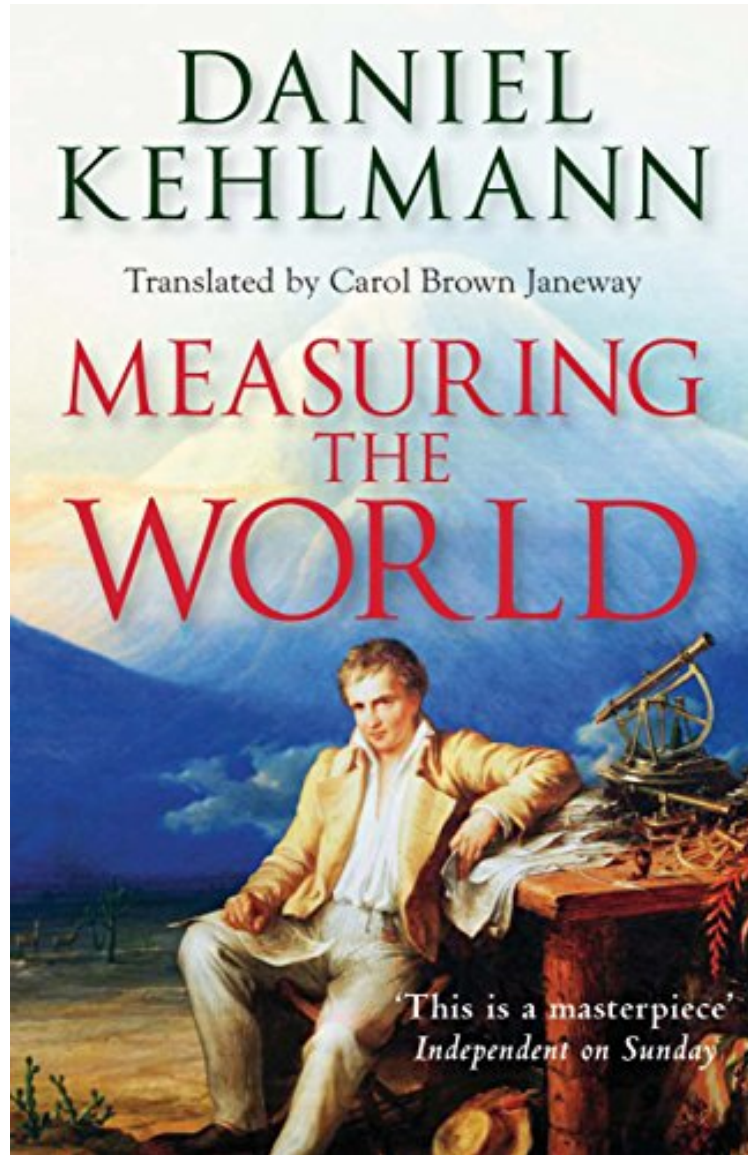


[Download] Measuring the World (English Edition)

Measuring the World (English Edition)

Von Daniel Kehlmann

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Von Daniel Kehlmann : Measuring the World (English Edition) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Measuring the World (English Edition):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen7 von 12 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A psychological study of German character and dry humourVon Mark O'NeillThis is one really weird book - but I suppose weird in both a good and bad way. The book centres on two Germans in the early 19th century called Count Alexander Von Humboldt and Carl Friedrich Gauss. Humboldt is an explorer who wants to understand the earth by

exploring it (mainly Spain and South America) and measuring it, with the assistance of his partner Bonpland. Gauss on the other hand is a mathematician and astronomer who prefers to stay home in Germany and understand the world (and how it works) by calculating mathematical equations and sitting in his observatory gazing at the stars all day. Eventually the lives of these two men converge and they meet. Initially they don't get on but eventually they realise they are made for one another. This is weird in a bad way because first of all, the book tends to ramble on and on, which may get you flicking through some pages. It is also weird because there are no direct speech marks when someone speaks. It's just one big rambling dialogue! So it can also be a bit difficult to understand some of it. However the book totally rocks with the dry wit and humour in it. Humboldt comes across as the serious dry boring Prussian so his scenes tend to be a bit boring. But when Gauss enters the picture, the book livens up immediately! Gauss is definitely my favourite character which surprised me because everyone I have spoken to said that it was Gauss that turned them off this book!!! I on the other hand loved his arrogant superior nature and sharp comments. I found it great that he tried to bargain with the Duke of Brunswick for a professor title and a salary ("One does not bargain with a German Duke!") and when his male colleague comes to visit, Gauss turns to his daughter and says "pity you're so ugly and he already has a wife!". The ending was very disappointing as it just stopped. We never find out what ultimately happened to Humboldt and Gauss and for that I felt let down. But you will love the dry spot-on humour. 0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Meisterhaft Von Erik Michel Schon auf Deutsch ein Meisterwerk, gerade auch sprachlich. Man kann sich jeden Satz auf der Zunge zergehen lassen. Erstaunlich, wie man diesen besonderen sprachlichen Ausdruck so geistreich in das Englische übertragen kann (natürlich ist das Englisch "holperig", aber das ist doch gerade der Trick!). Für mich als Liebhaber englischer Romane fast noch besser als das Original. Gnnen Sie sich mal was Gutes! 0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Measuring the World Von R Range Cloyd Jr A very nice book - easy to read and understand! It gives a great deal of information which my professors at university neglected altogether; thus I can recommend this book to all who are interested in the subject. Range cloyd

Kurzbeschreibung Measuring the World recreates the parallel but contrasting lives of two geniuses of the German Enlightenment - the naturalist and explorer Alexander von Humboldt and the mathematician and physicist Carl Friedrich Gauss. Towards the end of the 18th century, these two brilliant young Germans set out to measure the world. Humboldt, a Prussian aristocrat schooled for greatness, negotiates savannah and jungle, climbs the highest mountain then known to man, counts head lice on the heads of the natives, and explores every hole in the ground. Gauss, a man born in poverty who will be recognised as the greatest mathematician since Newton, does not even need to leave his home in Göttingen to know that space is curved. He can run prime numbers in his head, cannot imagine a life without women and yet jumps out of bed on his wedding night to jot down a mathematical formula. Measuring the World is a novel of rare charm and readability, distinguished by its sly humour and unforgettable characterization. It brings the two eccentric geniuses to life, their longings and their weaknesses, their balancing act between loneliness and love, absurdity and greatness, failure and success. From Publishers Weekly Loosely based on the lives of 19th-century explorer Alexander von Humboldt and a contemporary, mathematician Carl Friedrich Gauss, Kehlmann's novel, a German bestseller widely heralded as an exemplar of "new" German fiction, injects musty history with shots of whimsy and irony. Humboldt voyages to South America to map the Orinoco River, climb the Chimborazo peak in Ecuador and measure "every river, every mountain and every lake in his path." Gauss is the hedgehog to Humboldt's fox, leaping out of bed on his wedding night to jot down a formula and rarely leaving his hometown of Göttingen. The two meet at a scientific congress in 1828, when Germany is in turmoil after the fall of Napoleon. Other luminaries appear throughout the novel, including a senile Immanuel Kant, Louis Daguerre and Thomas Jefferson. The narrative is notable for its brisk pacing, lively prose and wry humor (curmudgeonly Gauss laments, for instance, how "every idiot would be able to... invent the most complete nonsense" about him 200 years hence), which keenly complements Kehlmann's intelligent, if not especially deep, treatment of science, mathematics and reason at the end of the Enlightenment. (Nov.) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist *Starred* In 1828, scientist-explorer Alexander von Humboldt (1769-1859) summons the great mathematician Carl Gauss (1777-1855) to join his party to Berlin, where he is to be feted before embarking on an expedition across Russia to the Urals. The perpetually testy Gauss, whose great trial in life is that everyone else thinks so slowly, which makes virtually any kind of human interaction infuriatingly boring for him (though he does fancy a fine young figure), would go back to sleep, but his wife, Minna, whom he barely tolerates, rousts him out and gets him on the road with youngest son Eugen. They no sooner arrive at Humboldt's mansion than Kehlmann diverges to recap his two principals' lives and careers in chapters alternately concerned with globe-trotting aristocrat Humboldt and genius-from-the-gutter Gauss, who willingly leaves home only to earn a living and escape Minna. The uncomfortable humor of being, in Gauss' case, too brilliant (he frequently bemoans having to live before the innovations he foresees can be constructed or even understood); in Humboldt's, too focused (he scrupulously abjures

whole theaters of human experience to concentrate on measuring), suffuses Kehlmann's heady historical novel, which may especially delight science-fiction connoisseurs. Ray Olson Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved