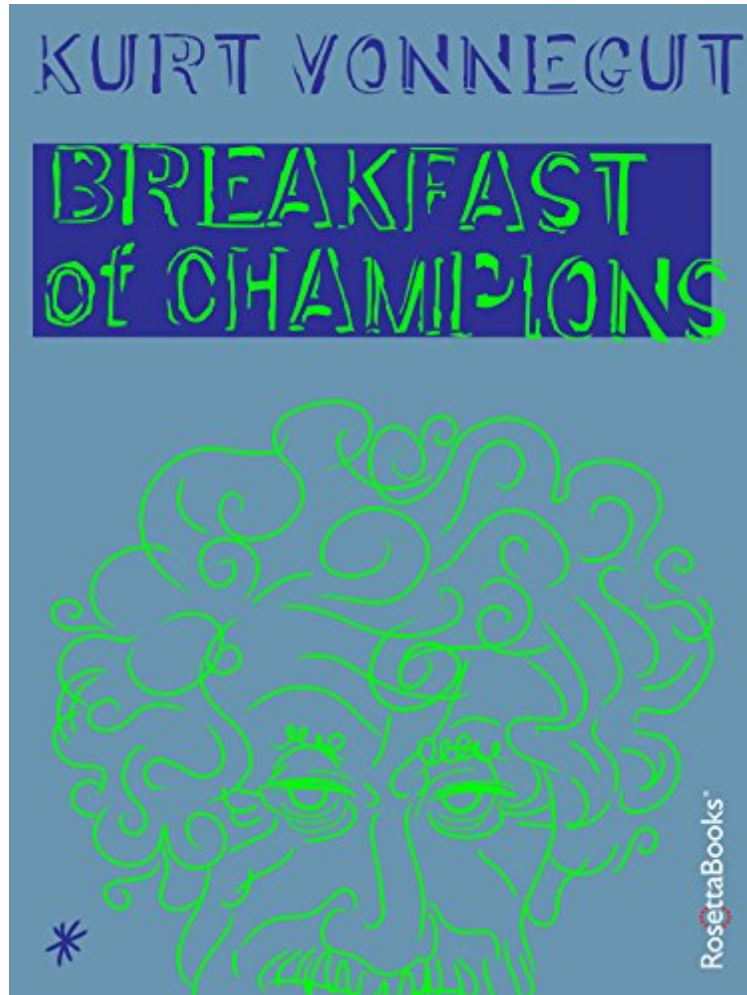


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Breakfast of Champions (English Edition)

Von Kurt Vonnegut

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Von Kurt Vonnegut : Breakfast of Champions (English Edition) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Breakfast of Champions (English Edition):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Pldoyer fr und gegen den Wahnsinn!Von Timo BrandtWenn ich dazu ansetze Kurt Vonneguts Buch "Breakfast of Champions" als eine Kreuzung zwischen Douglas Adams, Richard Brautigan und Michael Moore (mit einem Schuss Mounty Python) zu bezeichnen, laufe ich natrlich Gefahr, mit einem dieser Namen potenzielle Leser zu vergmrnen oder berdosierte Erwartungen zu wecken, die das Buch dann doch nicht im Sinne seiner Vergleichsobjekte erfllen kann. Dennoch scheint es mir die angemessenste Art zu sein, dieses Buch gleichzeitig zu empfehlen und meine Wertschtzung dafr auszudrcken.In seinen besten Momenten hat es die brillant Eigenheit und den Zug zum Sinnbildhaften wie eine von den Geschichten aus Per Anhalter durch die Galaxis, es hat in seiner Form und seiner

Manier eine groe, unterhaltsame Eigenheit, die daherkommt als wre sie Nachlssigkeit, den Leser aber die ganze Zeit wunderbar in seinen Bann zieht, und einen wohl ausgerichteten Zynismus, der fast immer in Schwarze trifft. Worum es in diesem Buch geht? Nun, Friedrich Drrenmatt schrieb einmal, das Rationale am Menschen seien seine Einsichten, das Irrationale, dass er nicht danach handelt. In Vonneguts Kultbuch tut man sich allerdings schon schwer, rationale Einsicht zu finden. Oberflhlich gesehen und aufs Grbste zusammengefasst ist das Buch eine bse Satire auf den Konsumwahn des Menschen und seine vllige Gleichgltigkeit gegenber den Zerstrungen und Auswirkungen, die seine Taten mit sich bringen. Etwas konkreter formuliert, ist es ein aberwitziger, geradezu elegant zwischen Kritik und Parodie balancierender Romanspa, mit einer schmalen Handlung, vielen gelungenen Abschweifungen und einem groen Lesevergnngen - wollen Sie also dem Irrsinn der Normalitt begegnen oder der Normalitt des Irrsinns, so lesen sie dieses Buch! Es ist eine satirische Posse voller Anarchie und Weisheit, ein Meilenstein des unterhaltsamen und zugleich ernststen Scherzes - eine wunderbare schrges Pldoyer gegen den Irrsinn. 6 von 6 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. so honest it hurts Von Ein Kunde What makes Vonnegut a true and marvelous master of the human condition and life and everything is his acceptance of the unexplainable. Rather than trying to give reasons and solutions, he simply lays it all out in a vastly entertaining style, and challenges his readers to make something of the mess. Here, with a unspectacular cast of characters whirling around in a lot of nothing, it's really rather amazing how deeply touching and brilliant the story is. Although this has a lot to do with Vonnegut's uncanny ability to poke your mind with subtle points in an obvious fashion, it also has to do with the fact that not everything is glamorous and suspenseful and neat. In fact, very little is. The meeting of Vonnegut and Trout at the end is absolutely classic, I could not stop grinning through the entire encounter, and the book itself is genius. Dare to be cynical with the master. 7 von 7 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. "We are what we pretend to be,... Von Michael Dienstbier... so we must be careful about what we pretend to be" (v). Dieser leitmotivische Satz steht gleich am Beginn vom Kurt Vonneguts Roman "Mother Night" und am Beginn der unglaublichen Lebensgeschichte von Howard W. Campbell, Jr., der zum Zeitpunkt der Aufzeichnung seiner Geschichte 1961 in einem Jerusalemer Gefngnis sitzt und auf seinen Prozess wartet. Er ist angeklagt, da er in Nazideutschland einer der bekanntesten Radiopropagandisten war, berhmt-berchtigt fr seine hasserfllten Tiraden gegenber den Juden. Doch nur wenig spter folgt der Clou: Campbell behauptet, in Wahrheit die ganze Zeit als Agent fr die CIA ttig gewesen zu sein, der im Verlauf seiner Ansprachen verschlsselte Botschaften an seine Auftraggeber vermittelt habe (vgl. S. 29). Campbell, der Ich-Erzher des Romans, sagt, dass er weder Verstdnis noch Mitleid fr sein Handeln erwarte. Zugleich zeigt er sich aber erstaunt darber, wie einfach es ihm gefallen sei, die Massen mit seinen Hasspredigten in Verzckung zu versetzen: "I had hoped, as a broadcaster, to be merely ludicrous, but this is a hard world to be ludicrous in, with so many human beings so reluctant to laugh, so incapable of thought, so eager to believe and snarl and hate. So many people wanted to believe me!" (160). Es sind gerade solch allgemein gltigen Beobachtungen wie diese, die einen an den beschrnkten Horizont von Fundamentalisten jedweder Couleur denken lassen. Ist Campbell ein Lgner, der sich doch nur reinwaschen will von den Snden seiner Vergangenheit oder doch das Opfer einer Agentenintrige, der sich fr sein Land opfert? Wie auch immer der Leser diese Frage fr sich beantworten mag, bleibt ihm oder ihr berlassen. Was aber auf jeden Fall beeindruckt ist Vonneguts Fhigkeit mit seinem brutal-trockenen Humor den Horror des Krieges und die Abgrnde der menschlichen Psyche darzustellen. Alle, die von Slaughterhouse-Five begeistert waren, werden auch an "Mother Night" ihre Freude haben.

Kurzbeschreibung Breakfast of Champions (1973) provides frantic, scattershot satire and a collage of Vonnegut's obsessions. His recurring cast of characters and American landscape was perhaps the most controversial of his canon; it was felt by many at the time to be a disappointing successor to Slaughterhouse-Five, which had made Vonnegut's literary reputation. The core of the novel is Kilgore Trout, a familiar character very deliberately modeled on the science fiction writer Theodore Sturgeon (1918-1985), a fact which Vonnegut conceded frequently in interviews and which was based upon his own occasional relationship with Sturgeon. Here Kilgore Trout is an itinerant wandering from one science fiction convention to another; he intersects with the protagonist, Dwayne Hoover (one of Vonnegut's typically boosterish, lost and stupid mid-American characters) and their intersection is the excuse for the evocation of many others, familiar and unfamiliar, dredged from Vonnegut's gallery. The central issue is concerned with intersecting and apposite views of reality, and much of the narrative is filtered through Trout who is neither certifiably insane nor a visionary writer but can pass for either depending upon Dwayne Hoover's (and Vonnegut's) view of the situation. America, when this novel was published, was in the throes of Nixon, Watergate and the unraveling of our intervention in Vietnam; the nation was beginning to fragment ideologically and geographically, and Vonnegut sought to cram all of this dysfunction (and a goofy, desperate kind of hope, the irrational comfort given through the genre of science fiction) into a sprawling narrative whose sense, if any, is situational, not conceptual. s were polarized; the novel was celebrated for its bizarre aspects, became the basis of a Bruce Willis movie adaptation whose reviews were not nearly so polarized. (Most critics hated it.) This novel in its freewheeling and deliberately fragmented sequentiality may be

the quintessential Vonnegut novel, not necessarily his best, but the work which most truly embodies the range of his talent, cartooned alienation and despair.

ABOUT THE AUTHORKurt Vonnegut (1922-2007) is one of the most beloved American writers of the twentieth century. Vonnegut's audience increased steadily since his first five pieces in the 1950s and grew from there. His 1968 novel *Slaughterhouse-Five* has become a canonic war novel with Joseph Heller's *Catch-22* to form the truest and darkest of what came from World War II. Vonnegut began his career as a science fiction writer, and his early novels--*Player Piano* and *The Sirens of Titan*--were categorized as such even as they appealed to an audience far beyond the reach of the category. In the 1960s, Vonnegut became closely associated with the Baby Boomer generation, a writer on that side, so to speak. Now that Vonnegut's work has been studied as a large body of work, it has been more deeply understood and unified. There is a consistency to his satirical insight, humor and anger which makes his work so synergistic. It seems clear that the more of Vonnegut's work you read, the more it resonates and the more you wish to read. Scholars believe that Vonnegut's reputation (like Mark Twain's) will grow steadily through the decades as his work continues to increase in relevance and new connections are formed, new insights made.

ABOUT THE SERIESAuthor Kurt Vonnegut is considered by most to be one of the most important writers of the twentieth century. His books *Slaughterhouse-Five* (named after Vonnegut's World War II POW experience) and *Cat's Cradle* are considered among his top works. RosettaBooks offers here a complete range of Vonnegut's work, including his first novel (*Player Piano*, 1952) for readers familiar with Vonnegut's work as well as newcomers..de

"We are healthy only to the extent that our ideas are humane." So reads the tombstone of downtrodden writer Kilgore Trout, but we have no doubt who's really talking: his alter ego Kurt Vonnegut. Health versus sickness, humanity versus inhumanity--both sets of ideas bounce through this challenging and funny book. As with the rest of Vonnegut's pure fantasy, it lacks the shimmering, fact-fueled rage that illuminates *Slaughterhouse-Five*. At the same time, that makes this book perhaps more enjoyable to read. *Breakfast of Champions* is a slippery, lucid, bleakly humorous jaunt through (sick? inhumane?) America circa 1973, with Vonnegut acting as our Virgil-like companion. The book follows its main character, auto-dealing solid-citizen Dwayne Hoover, down into madness, a condition brought on by the work of the aforementioned Kilgore Trout. As Dwayne cracks, then crumbles, *Breakfast of Champions* coolly shows the effects his dementia has on the web of characters surrounding him. It's not much of a plot, but it's enough for Vonnegut to air unique opinions on America, sex, war, love, and all of his other pet topics--you know, the only ones that really count..com

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