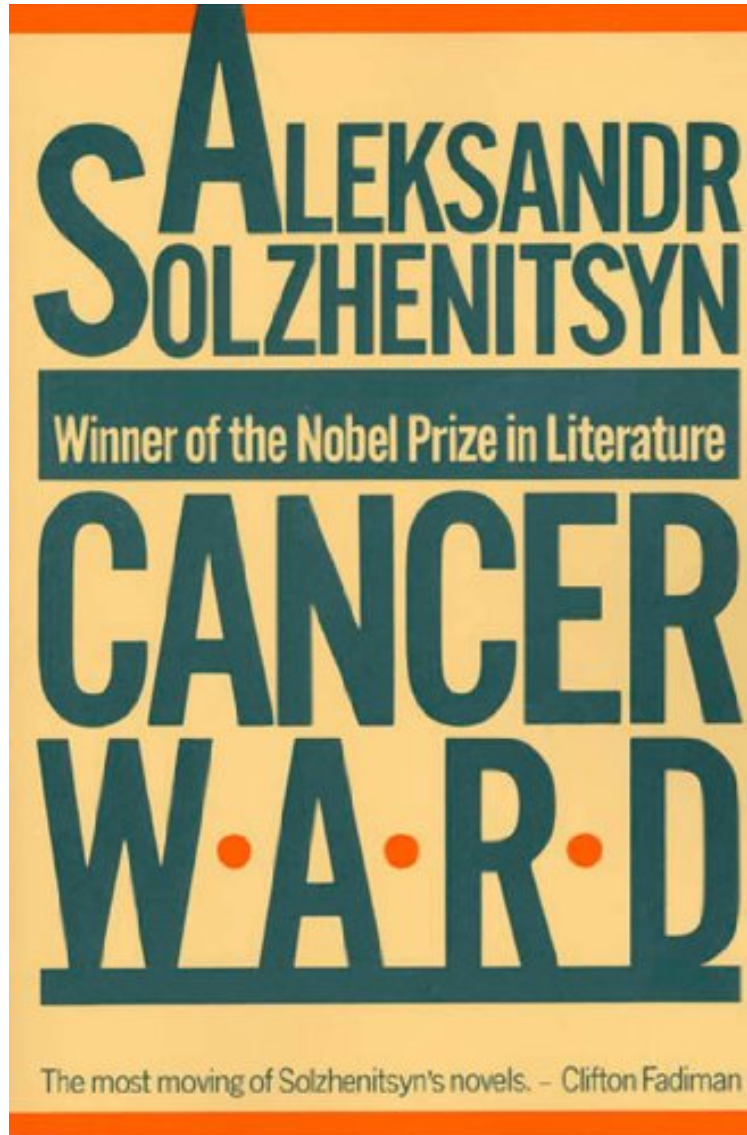


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Cancer Ward: A Novel (FSG Classics)

Von Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn
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Von Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn : Cancer Ward: A Novel (FSG Classics) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Cancer Ward: A Novel (FSG Classics):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Great characters, frustrating finishVon Len FederSolzhenitsyn always gives wonderful characters in a dreadful situation, makes you aware of the horrors of Stalinism as they affect the characters, and flat out refuses to give you a satisfying ending. It's as if he is telling us it isn't that kind of a book - you aren't in Disneyland.As in The First Circle,

Solzhenitsyn presents us with a group of Russian men living together in tough circumstances. The First Circle concerns political prisoners. Cancer Ward's characters are imprisoned by their tumors. The author himself had experience in both of these worlds, as a political prisoner for ridiculing Stalin, and as a cancer patient. The two main characters here are Kostoglotov (hero) and Rusanov (villain). Kostoglotov reports to the cancer ward as a former political prisoner who had been exiled to Siberia (of course, innocent, and a war hero). The huge scar on his face was given to him by ruffians in the prison camp when he had the courage to stand up to them in defense of their innocent victims. Rusanov is a higher-up in government. He has forced many a married woman to abandon her political prisoner husband and file for divorce, at the threat of losing her livelihood. He sent his best friend to Siberia because the man's family was sharing Rusanov's home, and Rusanov wanted it all for his own family. These are, as you may know if you are at all familiar with this author, typical Solzhenitsyn characters. The heroic good guy, victimized by Stalin's insanity, and the despicable bad guy who thrives under the Stalinist system. Without spoiling the ending for you, but just warning you, the final chapter is the one in which Kostoglotov has his chance to "get the girl" and live happily ever after, but...0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Where do loyalties lie in the face of death? Von Ein Kunde At first Cancer Ward exposes the dull horror of succumbing to the terminal illness -- the x-ray therapy, the injections, the pain. These treatments seem particularly archaic by today's standards, and help to intensify the despair. But long before the middle of the book, the characters - a group of a dozen or so men in the ward - begin to drive the narrative. They argue party affiliations and politics with a false bravado, trying to believe these things matter, that they'll leave the Ward alive. But it is Kostoglotov (who may have been an inspiration for Kesey's Randall McMurphy, from One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest) who becomes the life of the novel. A prisoner of the State and a desperately ill man, he nonetheless continues to live fully in the Ward, persuading nurses, ruminating on the nature of illness and exile, and daring to hope. The reader dares to hope, too, as Kostoglotov shows flickering indications of health. A fabulously engaging book - and, in the bargain, one of the only pieces of fiction that will make you consider a healthier lifestyle0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Deep Von Miriam I've always loved Russian Literature, but this book looked daunting. However I love books like this, where there is a microcosm of society seen in a certain situation. All the patients are being treated for cancer, but there is a cancer in society too.

Kurzbeschreibung Cancer Ward examines the relationship of a group of people in the cancer ward of a provincial Soviet hospital in 1955, two years after Stalin's death. We see them under normal circumstances, and also reexamined at the eleventh hour of illness. Together they represent a remarkable cross-section of contemporary Russian characters and attitudes. The experiences of the central character, Oleg Kostoglotov, closely reflect the author's own: Solzhenitsyn himself became a patient in a cancer ward in the mid-1950s, on his release from a labor camp, and later recovered. Translated by Nicholas Bethell and David Burg. Pressestimmen "Perhaps the most famous work of fiction dealing directly with the disease" (Guardian) "And what does Solzhenitsyn say about cancer? How does he reach me, in Australia, with his Russian book? He shows me something valuable that I discovered during my own medical treatment. The people who are involved in cancer -- the sufferer, the doctors, the nurses, the orderlies -- are often occupied less with the cancer than with each other. There are small societies of patients and medical workers in a hospital ward, and in those societies people share what they have: their love and resentment, their stories and observations." (Brenda Walker The Australian) "Solzhenitsyn was a great writer as the result of the collision of a particular personality and an awesome subject matter" (Henry Porter Observer) "Solzhenitsyn is a man of genius it is a privilege to be Solzhenitsyn's contemporary" (Observer) "There has been no such analysis of the corrupting power of the police state in Soviet literature" (Listener) Werbetext 'Without a doubt the greatest Russian novelist' Sunday Times