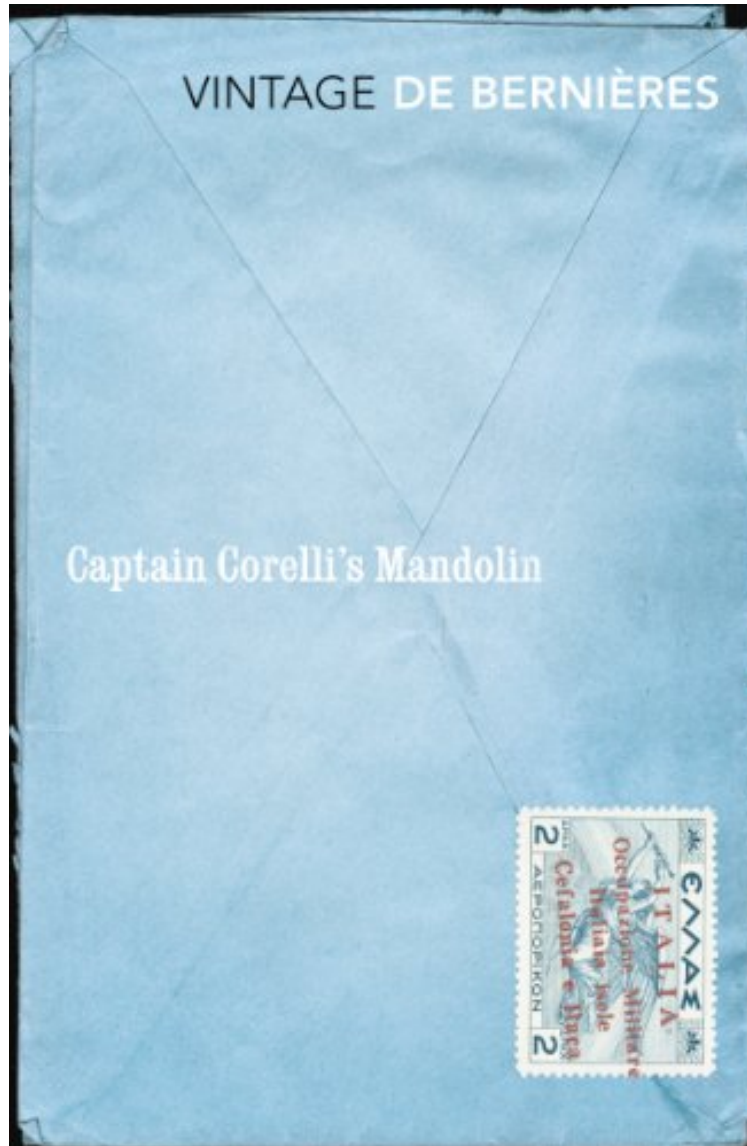


[Free pdf] Captain Corelli's Mandolin (Vintage Classics)

Captain Corelli's Mandolin (Vintage Classics)

Von Louis de Bernieres
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Von Louis de Bernieres : Captain Corelli's Mandolin (Vintage Classics) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Captain Corelli's Mandolin (Vintage Classics):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen3 von 3 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A brilliant mix of humour, pathos, history, love, and hateVon Ein KundeYou can read other reviews here and they all complain about the ending. Well, the ending doesn't live up to the rest of the book, it's true. But don't let that put you off. The book as a whole must surely be one of the most remarkable, insightful, beautiful and profound books ever

written. Set primarily in a tiny Greek village on the island of Cephallonia, and told through the eyes of maybe half a dozen characters, this remarkable tale explores the effects of war on simple people as they struggle to preserve their lives and their loves, and to understand the meaning of happiness, life and death. Dr. Iannis is wise; his daughter Pelagia is strong; her fiancé handsome but weak; her soulmate charming and well-meaning (though the ending suggests perhaps not worthy of her); the village priest a drunken buffoon,...and there are others. The notes on the back of the book quote the Observer's review: "...an emotional, funny, stunning novel which swings with wide smoothness between joy and bleakness, personal lives and history...it's lyrical and angry, satirical and earnest". I guess that really says it all. One last note, though: Here in New Zealand on the annual bookstore's reader's poll, this novel made the top 10 in 1998.1 von 2 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Well, I LIKED the ending!! Von Susan Zuckerman (zuckerma@home.com) This will go down as one of my all-time favourite books. Such a masterful mix of comedy and tragedy is rare, indeed. In parts I couldn't stop laughing, much to my sleeping husband's annoyance as I read it late into the night. Then unstoppable tears would flow. De Berniers's obvious love of his characters, his painstaking research, his use of challenging vocabulary that often sent me gleefully into the dictionary, his masterful unfolding of plot -- all combined to keep me in continual awe of his writing. And now, about THAT ending: Yes, there was a definite shift from the intricate details of most of the book, which covered a relatively short period of time. But to cover decades in that same detailed style would be utterly impossible! (Unless it becomes a multi-volume epic, which I believe in this case would be unsustainable.) I was impressed, actually, that De Berniers was able to give enough details to make the unfolding of those decades not too rushed. It was like travelling on a speeding train through the landscape, but stopping long enough in some places to get one's bearings, get a decent feel for the time and place, and even go into some shops and have a nice meal and a chat with the locals. I LIKED the way De Berniers constructed the "bridge", then, from the war to the present, to what we can see and experience on the island of Cephalonia today. As far as the culmination of the love-story is concerned, without giving away the ending, I found it satisfying and realistic. The characters remained essentially consistent, although circumstances and their lives had drastically changed. The criteria for a good ending, as far as I'm concerned, is that I feel satisfied, that it feels "right", and that I couldn't completely predict it, although some hints were pointing me in that general direction. It met those criteria for me.1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. One of the best books written -- almost Von Ein Kunde Man, this was one great book. I can't remember the last time a novel invoked such passion. But that ending -- humph, it's like de Berniers just got tired of writing. Don't get me wrong, I love a tragedy as much as the next, but the author's reasons for Antonio's actions in the book's final 80ish pages are wholly unbelievable and bordering on insulting. AND to expect us to believe he had trouble excepting Carlo's secret -- give me a break! This truly is one GREAT book, but I'd like to think the last 80 pages were written by someone else.

Kurzbeschreibung It is 1941 and Captain Antonio Corelli, a young Italian officer, is posted to the Greek island of Cephallonia as part of the occupying forces. At first he is ostracised by the locals, but as a conscientious but far from fanatical soldier, whose main aim is to have a peaceful war, he proves in time to be civilised, humorous - and a consummate musician. When the local doctor's daughter's letters to her fiancé - a member of the underground - go unanswered, the working of the eternal triangle seems inevitable. But can this fragile love survive as a war of bestial savagery gets closer and the lines are drawn between invader and defender?. de Captain Corelli's Mandolin is set in the early days of the second world war, before Benito Mussolini invaded Greece. Dr Iannis practices medicine on the island of Cephalonia, accompanied by his daughter, Pelagia, to whom he imparts much of his healing art. Even when the Italians do invade, life isn't so bad--at first anyway. The officer in command of the Italian garrison is the cultured Captain Antonio Corelli, who responds to a Nazi greeting of "Heil Hitler" with his own "Heil Puccini", and whose most precious possession is his mandolin. It isn't long before Corelli and Pelagia are involved in a heated affair--despite her engagement to a young fisherman, Mandras, who has gone off to join Greek partisans. Love is complicated enough in wartime, even when the lovers are on the same side. And for Corelli and Pelagia, it becomes increasingly difficult to negotiate the minefield of allegiances, both personal and political, as all around them atrocities mount, former friends become enemies and the ugliness of war infects everyone it touches. British author Louis de Bernieres is well known for his forays into magical realism in such novels as *The War of Don Emmanuel's Nether Parts*, *Seor Vivo* and *the Coca Lord* and *The Troublesome Offspring of Cardinal Guzman*. Here he keeps it to a minimum, though certainly the secondary characters with whom he populates his island--the drunken priest, the strongman, the fisherman who swims with dolphins--would be at home in any of his wildly imaginative Latin American fictions. Instead, de Bernieres seems interested in dissecting the nature of history as he tells his ever-darkening tale from many different perspectives. Captain Corelli's Mandolin works on many levels, as a love story, a war story and a deconstruction of just what determines the facts that make it into the history books. Pressestimmen "Brims with all the grand topics of literature love and death, heroism and skull-duggery, humor and pathos, not to mention art and religion A good old-fashioned novel." *Washington Post Book World* "An exuberant mixture of history and romance,

written with a wit that is incandescent"Los Angeles Times Book "StunningA high-spirited historical romanceRemarkable."The New York Times Book "His novel will give pleasure to all sorts of readers. It is also so good that it will last."A.S. Byatt writing in Evening Standard"Captain Corellis Mandolin is an emotional, funny, stunning novel which swings with wide smoothness between joy and bleakness, personal lives and historyits lyrical and angry, satirical and earnest."Observer"A wonderful, hypnotic novel of fabulous scope and tremendous iridescent charm."Joseph Heller"It is funny, heartbreaking, and horrifying in its fictional testimony.Captain Corelli's Mandolin, delightful and sad, comic and at the same time nearly unbearable in its portrayal of European darkness during the war, is a tour de force depiction of the triumph of life over evil by one of Europe's great comic writers of our time."Booklist"Dazzling.a fabulous book in the tradition of Tolstoy and Dickens.So joyous and heartbreaking, so rich and musical and wise, that reading it is like discovering anew the enchanting power of fiction."San Francisco Chronicle