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*Von Raymond Carver*  
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**Von Raymond Carver : Cathedral (Vintage Classics)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Cathedral (Vintage Classics):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A BLIND CATHEDRAL TO WORDSVon Hermes TrismegistusRaymond Carver is one of the few who has succeeded in describing the sense of everyday life in modern times, the mystery hiding behind the status quo of things, the suspended menace of a sudden revelation about life. It is the "poetry of prosaic", of which Robert Altman speaks in

one of his best movies -- Short Cuts -- based on some of Carver's stories. It is the other face of the Great Dream, stories of common people, labourers, alcoholics, adulterers, always on a balance between hope and cynical delusion, when life's responsibilities weighing on each of us, overcome us and affirm that nothing is certain - marriage and family, work, health. Carver is a writer of short stories - one of the greatest in this field - who has followed in the path of the rich American tradition of Poe, Hemingway and Cheever. Inevitable his choice of the short measure, since Carver writes by subtraction, with an anti-gracious quickness, a realistic dryness of prose that makes sentences almost pure narrational algorithms, an open bundle of nerves transmitting immediate images. Carver's short stories are true and proper epiphanies, splinters of America illuminating the frozen moment where the essence of things rends the veil of a low and inconclusive reality: and everything appears clearer to us, as in the extraordinary story "Cathedral" of the book's title, where one of the main characters, a blind man, succeeds in making another character draw a cathedral with his eyes shut, on a sheet. Thus the wonder, the joy for a creative experience so minimal yet so intense and revelatory.

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Not since J.D. Salinger's "9 Stories"...Von Ein Kunde

Not since J.D. Salinger's "9 Stories" has an American author shown such mastery of the short story form. Raymond Carver's "Cathedral" is a must read for anyone who has craved great short stories ever since Salinger disappeared. In Cathedral, each of the stories creates an emotional landscape. At the end of each story, one is left with a feeling, an emotional tone that the story conveyed. Since most of the stories are about alcoholism, often the feeling is one of numbness. Carver creates these landscapes not by describing what his characters feel, but through his descriptions of the details of their lives: the way they talk, the way their homes look, how they interact with friends and lovers. In Cathedral often the slightest detail, exquisitely described, can speak volumes. While reading Cathedral, at the end of each story I kept thinking, "The next one can't be as good as the last." Carver consistently proved me wrong, up until the last story. Since Cathedral reminded me so much of "9 Stories", I expected Carver's strongest, most epiphanal story to be at the end of the book. While the last story was no "Teddy", it was well written and maintained the emotional tone Carver had built through all the previous stories. What it lacked in epiphany, it made up for in consistency. I came away from Cathedral feeling like I had eaten a three-course gourmet meal and had been served great coffee afterwards. I highly recommend this book.

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Response to "A Reader"

Von mjfire@aol.com "A Reader" writes that he wishes Carver had written a novel. Carver himself writes in an essay entitled "On Writing" (included in the collection "Fires"), that, "Back in the mid-1960s, I found I was having trouble concentrating...I no longer had the patience to try to write novels. It's an involved story, too tedious to talk about here. But I know it has much to do now with why I write poems and short stories. Get in, get out." Carver was certainly one of the great short story writers of the last half-century, in a class with Cheever, Malamud, Updike and others. But novels were not his thing--one wonders if a "Raymond Carver novel" would have even been as brilliant as the stories. A novel has to have action -- and Carver's world is sunk in inaction, or rather mundane action -- around which a novel is not constructed. He knew his calling, as he writes in the aforementioned essay. "Cathedral" stands as the best of his collections; it is indispensable to anyone who is serious about American literature and wishes to understand what modern fiction is about.

Kurzbeschreibung Raymond Carver said it was possible 'to write about commonplace things and objects using commonplace but precise language and endow these things - a chair, a window curtain, a fork, a stone, a woman's earring - with immense, even startling power'. Nowhere is this alchemy more striking than in the title story of Cathedral in which a blind man guides the hand of a sighted man as together they draw the cathedral the blind man can never see. Many view this story, and indeed this collection, as a watershed in the maturing of Carver's work to a more confidently poetic style.

delIt was morning in America when Raymond Carver's Cathedral came out in 1983, but the characters in this dry collection of short stories from the forgotten corners of land of opportunity didn't receive much sunlight. Nothing much happens to the subjects of Carver's fiction, which is precisely why they are so harrowing: nothingness is a daunting presence to overcome. And rarely do they prevail, but the loneliness and quiet struggle the characters endure provide fertile ground for literary triumph, particularly in the hands of Carver, who was perhaps in his best form with this effort.

Pressestimmen "The twelve stories collected in his book Cathedral are remarkable for the originality of vision which he manages to convey in scrupulously simple prose. Carver's is a considerable and an enterprising talent" (Guardian) "Cathedral ought to establish his reputation as one of the most original new voices in fiction to appear from the United States for many years" (Bill Buford Times Literary Supplement) "Carver is a writer of astonishing compassion and honesty, utterly free of pretence and affection, his eye set only on describing and revealing the world as he sees it. His eye is so clear, it almost breaks your heart" (Washington Post) "An important book in a unique career" (New York of Books)