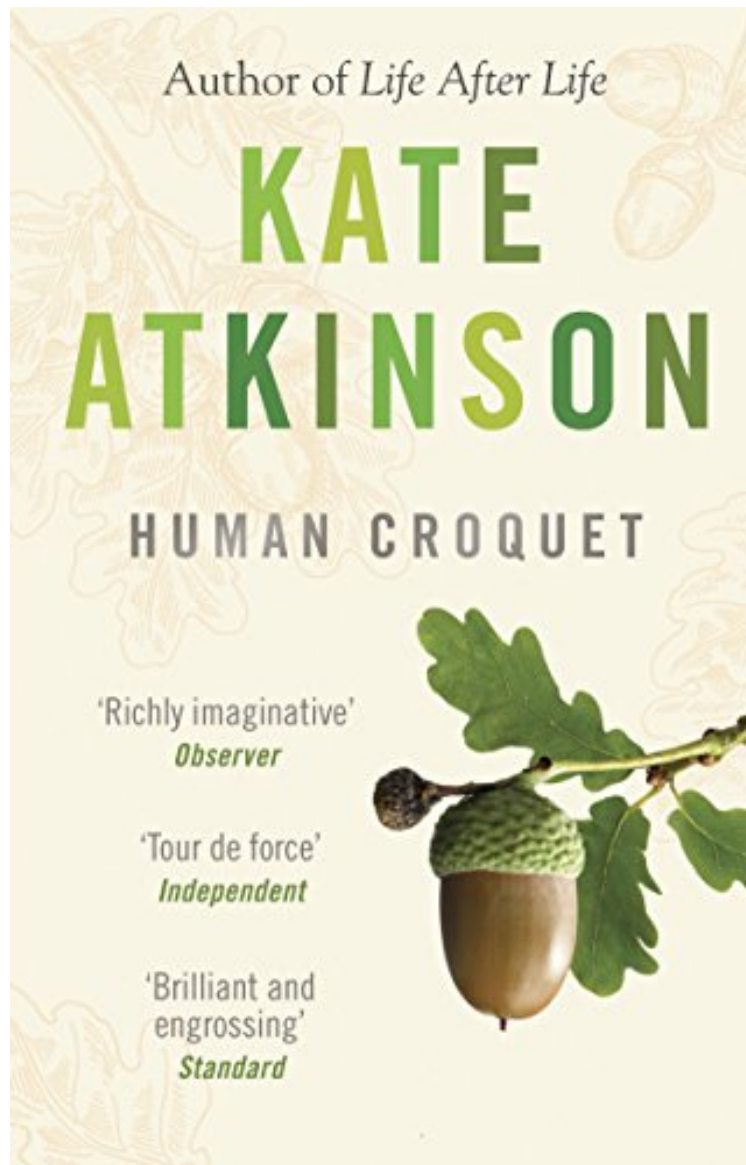


(Download ebook) Human Croquet

Human Croquet

Von Kate Atkinson

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Von Kate Atkinson : Human Croquet before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Human Croquet:

Kundenrezensionen Hilfreichste Kundenrezensionen 5 von 5 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Original and consuming Von Ein Kunde Kate Atkinson knows how to write a great book. Having read virtually thousands of novels during my seventeen years, I've grown increasingly frustrated with the "formula" writers who all sound exactly

the same. Luckily, Ms. Atkinson has dared to break the mold. In this sparkling story, we are led through the fascinating mind of Isobel Fairfax, are introduced to her dysfunctional but enjoyable family, and an array of very human characters. The characters here are a little exaggerated, but Atkinson uses such brilliant imagery in her descriptions that we can easily forgive her. At the heart of the story is the mystery of Eliza, Isobel's mother, who disappeared years ago. Strange, inexplicable fluctuations in time slowly reveal more of the story behind the mystery as we are led into the past and through several different realities of the future. Following the time jumps can be confusing, but the patient reader will be rewarded in the end. I am a very critical reader, and I loved this book- so go read it!

3 von 3 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. better even than "behind the scenes"

Von Ein KundeThis book was lovely -- beautiful descriptions, fascinating characters and plot, and an intriguing first chapter that hooked me instantly. It doesn't quite fit into any category that I can think of . . . except that it is (and has been since I first read it) on the list of my favourite books of all time.

1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Not as good as "Behind the Scenes..."

Von mark thomasI came upon "Human Croquet" after reading Atkinson's first novel, "Behind the Scenes..." and quite frankly I do have to admit I preferred the first. Having a debut novel established on such solid ground would, I presume hold a challenging task for any given author when undertaking the writing and publication of a follow-up, and Atkinson herself is no exception. There are less characters in "Human Croquet" yet too often the plot and its events are far too complicated and confusing for the reader, as often you get completely confused with what has actually happened or what is merely the result of Isobel (the protagonist's) imagination. We see the object of Isobel's affection, Malcom Lovatt, die three times and in the closure of the novel we are given the events of his life story in just a few lines. The novel is seemingly full of bizarre contradictions and in summary the novel seems to lack the originality and freshness of its predecessor. What we can expect of "Emotionally Weird" certainly leaves a lot to be desired. A substantial effort.

KurzbeschreibungOnce it had been the great forest of Lythe. And here, in the beginning, lived the Fairfaxes, grandly, at Fairfax Manor. But over the centuries the forest had been destroyed, replaced by Streets of Trees. The Fairfaxes have dwindled too; now they live in 'Arden' at the end of Hawthorne Close and are hardly a family at all. But Isobel Fairfax, who drops into pockets of time and out again, knows about the past. She is sixteen and waiting for the return of her mother - the thin, dangerous Eliza with her scent of nicotine, Arpge and sex, whose disappearance is part of the mystery that still remains at the heart of the forest.

deHuman Croquet is a game in which some people act as hoops while others propel a blindfolded "ball" around the course. Though the game is never actually played in Kate Atkinson's remarkable novel, Human Croquet, the parallels between plot and pastime are undeniable. Atkinson, winner of the 1995 Whitbread Award in Britain, tells the story of Isobel Fairfax and her older brother, Charles. The children's parents vanished when they were young, leaving them to the care of their grandmother, now dead, and their Aunt Vinny. Recently their father has returned with "the Debbie-wife" in tow, and they all live in Arden, the family's ancestral home built on the foundations of the original manor house that burned to the ground in 1605. According to family legend, the first Fairfax took a wife who mysteriously disappeared one day, leaving in her wake a curse on the Fairfax name. More than 300 years later, Fairfax descendants are still struggling with this painful legacy. Atkinson's novel is obviously not rooted in dull reality. Narrator Isobel has an uncanny knowledge of past and future events; Charles is obsessed with the concept of parallel universes and time travel; and a faery curse hangs over everybody. Fortunately, Kate Atkinson is a masterful writer who manages to keep her world of wonders in check. Human Croquet is no ordinary novel, and readers who venture into the Fairfax universe are in for a magical ride.

Pressestimmen'Patricia Hodge's bossy plumminess is perfectly suited to the offbeat text.' Irish Times 3/5/97