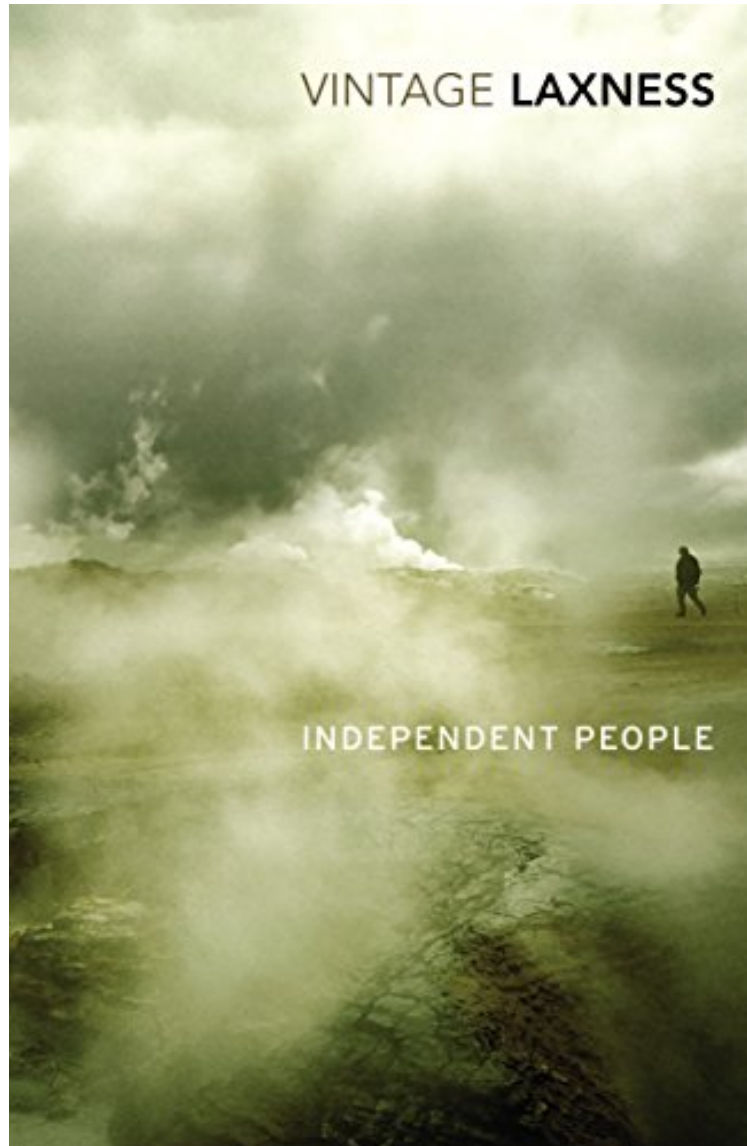


(Read free ebook) Independent People

Independent People

Von Halldor Laxness

*ePub / *DOC / audiobook / ebooks / Download PDF*



DOWNLOAD



READ ONLINE

Produktinformation -Verkaufsrank: #197158 in eBooksVerffentlicht am: 2010-09-30Erscheinungsdatum: 2010-09-30File Name: B00413PITK | File size: 37.Mb

Von Halldor Laxness : Independent People before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Independent People:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen5 von 5 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. I Must Learn to Read Icelandic!Von Richard S. HarmanHaving just read INDEPENDENT PEOPLE, I feel as though I have been drawn into the vortex of some great hurricane and am being carried around the globe by it, high above the surface, trapped in its gravity.This story has captured me and will not let me go. It is above all the heroic struggle of a

Viking farmer to be free and his refusal to grieve in loss and defeat that grip me. He never grieves. Why then did I continually grieve for him? And why am I grieving for him still? The answer must be that my character is weak in comparison. Laxness may have spoken for all survivors everywhere. "Never mourn what you have lost."--"rather content yourself with what you have left, when you have lost what you had." Some people learn Russian to read Pushkin. I want to learn Icelandic to read Laxness. As for politics and ideologies, not to worry. They are just a little dust here and there on the floor of thecroft, at times a little distraction. The story unfolds outside and above and all around them and in its enormous weight little concerns them. Could this book possibly have been written just for me? To enjoy it most, a reader should probably have lived at least a thousand years.³ von 3 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Bleak and Beautiful, an Astonishing Tale Von Ein Kunde Independent People is not a book for everyone. It is a long, slow and sometimes punishing read. Laxness paints the sheep farmer's life in bleak tones. Think of Solzhenitsyn's Siberia or Rolvaag's Dakota prairie. So dismal is the mood at times that the reader feels the imminent onset of seasonal affective disorder. But Independent People also contains moments of pure, distilled beauty so arresting they seem to stand out from the cold landscape like stars in the ink of darkness. Bjartur of Summerhouses is a true epic hero. As Monte Christo is to vengeance, Bjartur is to self-determination. His emotional intransigence and the suffering he visits on all those close to him is balanced only by the enormity and brute force of his will. Asta Sollilja, his daughter, is the only possible counterweight to his obstinacy, in both emotional and literary terms. She is strong and sensitive, beautiful and grotesque, half Bjartur, half anti-Bjartur. Her duality provides the story's central drama and the book's over-arching metaphor. Masterfully constructed of vignettes woven into small books, Independent People is seamless. Laxness's voice is clear and lyric, never showy. The writing is fresh and modern, yet seems to be channeled from Iceland's mythic past. This is a land populated by many dark spirits and one never feels quite free of their presence here. Certain images from Independent People are indelibly etched on my consciousness. A man violently and accidentally riding a reindeer. A girl longing by a window for a stranger she's met just once. A young man seduced back to the home he has left by a siren on horseback. There is something more to why I love this book. I spent a week in Iceland in July 1998, and was transfixed by its rugged, austere beauty. The feeling I had while reading Independent People was the same feeling that possessed me the entire time I was in Iceland. It was the cold, astonishing sensation of stepping outside your self and gazing on the topography of your own heart.⁰ von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A complex masterpiece of Von Ein Kunde In , Halldor Laxness demonstrates that he is a master in the use of an artistic device that has succeeded for centuries--the juxtaposition of a rugged, immutable landscape with the drama of human experience. An obdurate or bleak landscape, especially one with an inhospitable climate, can bring into high relief the fragility and transience of human existence. Laxness contrasts an unforgiving Icelandic glacial valley with characters whose existence is defined by their struggle to survive in it. One reflection of his genius in this novel, however, is that he is not simply content to use this artistic device in a straightforward way, for he also draws the between the geological stage and the human drama. This is most evident in his portrayal of Bjartur, the principal character. This rugged sheep farmer often seems to us just as hard and cruel as the landscape in which he hacks out an existence. His obsession with independence leads him at times to value the lives of animals over those of his family. He actually seems to part of the landscape against which his family perpetually struggles. His granite personality heightens our sense of the humanity of others in the book and leads us to empathize more with them, even if we do hope often for his success. He is a boulder, they are people. But the landscape is not always cold and dark. It teases us with a short, warm and green summer, and throughout the book we see fleeting signs of warmth in Bjartur as well. In the towering crags surrounding his farm a single flower can sometimes survive and grow, and we want the seed of empathy to find root in this hard man. Our tension steadily grows as we wonder whether he will be able to overcome his seemingly immutable nature and nourish such a little flower. Bjartur is large as a figure in an Icelandic saga, and this adds to the epic and heroic qualities of the book. The frustrating predictability of his character is a source of both tragic and comic elements. Numerous themes of opposition, contradiction and relativism reinforce the landscape/humanity contrast and add complexity to the novel--e.g., religion vs. superstition, religion/superstition vs. logic/science, the benefits that flow from the evils of war, capitalism vs. socialism, the insensitivity of civilization, etc. Other characters in the book are well developed, especially Bjartur's daughter, who plays a principal role in the theme of male-female contrast. Throughout, Laxness demonstrates keen psychological awareness, and he keeps us guessing and surprised. These and other qualities make this one of the best books I have ever read. When I reached the last page, I wanted to begin again. It is as timeless as its landscape.

Kurzbeschreibung First published in 1946, this humane epic novel is set in rural Iceland in the early twentieth century. Bjartur is a sheep farmer determined to eke a living from a blighted patch of land. Nothing, not merciless weather, nor his family will come between him and his goal of financial independence. Only Asta Solilja, the child he brings up as his daughter, can pierce his stubborn heart. As she grows up, keen to make her own way in the world, Bjartur's

obstinacy threatens to estrange them forever. From Publishers Weekly Originally published in 1946 and out of print for decades, this book by the Nobel Prize-winning Icelandic author is a huge, skaldic treat filled with satire, humor, pathos, cold weather and sheep. Gudbjartur Jonsson becomes Bjartur of Summerhouses when, after 18 years of service to the Bailiff of Myri, he is able to buy his own croft. Summerhouses is probably haunted and is certainly unprepossessing, but Bjartur is a stubborn, leathery old (whatever his age) coot, and he soon has his new bride and few head of sheep installed in a sod house. When his wife dies cold and alone giving birth to the daughter of the Bailiff's son, Bjartur takes the child on almost as another test of his independence. Bjartur survives another wife, three sons that lived and several dead ones, all with his "armour of scepticism," which "endowed him with greater moral fortitude than that possessed by the other men." Through hard times (in the guises of worms and a cow that threaten his precious sheep), Bjartur maintains his ferocious and self-destructive independence, one aimed not so much at bettering his condition as being able to tell his former employer where to get off. Laxness is merciless with the hypocrisy of the upper classes, as exemplified by the Bailiff's poetess wife, who applauds the simple life of poor country people, or the Bailiff's son, whose social-welfare schemes help him but undermine the crofters. Laxness is not easy on Bjartur, who is bloody-minded in the extreme, but he is tender enough to compose a poem to his exiled adoptive daughter, and bold enough to engrave a simple marker in honor of the misunderstood ghoul who has haunted his farm and family. He's a figure that Snorri Sturluson would have recognized. Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc. Pressestimmen "Reader rejoice! At last this funny, clever, sardonic and brilliant book is back in print. Independent People is one of my Top Ten Favourite Books of All Time." Annie Proulx "There are good books and there are great books and there may be a book that is something still more: it is the book of your life. . . . My favorite book by a living novelist is Independent People." Brad Leithauser "This beautiful and heartbreaking novel has haunted me ever since I was lent a rare copy years ago, and I am delighted that what is clearly a masterpiece by a relatively uncelebrated genius will now be available to a wide audience of book lovers. If there is any justice in the world, the name Laxness will soon become a household word, at least in those households where timeless works of the imagination are cherished." Joel Conarroe "Laxness has a poet's imagination and a poet's gift for phrase and symbol. . . . Bjartur is a magnificent and complex symbol of peasant independence." The New York Times Book "A strange story, vibrant and alive. . . . There is a rare beauty in its telling, a beauty as surprising as the authentic strain of poetry that lies in the shoving, battering Iclander." Atlantic Monthly "A saga that somehow contrives to recapture the broad, clear air of older Icelandic tales." The Observer (London) "[Laxness] gives a large picture of life under primitive conditions, [he] writes vividly, using irony with vigorous effect; amid the brutality and squalor there are rich moments of humor and poetry." The Spectator (London)