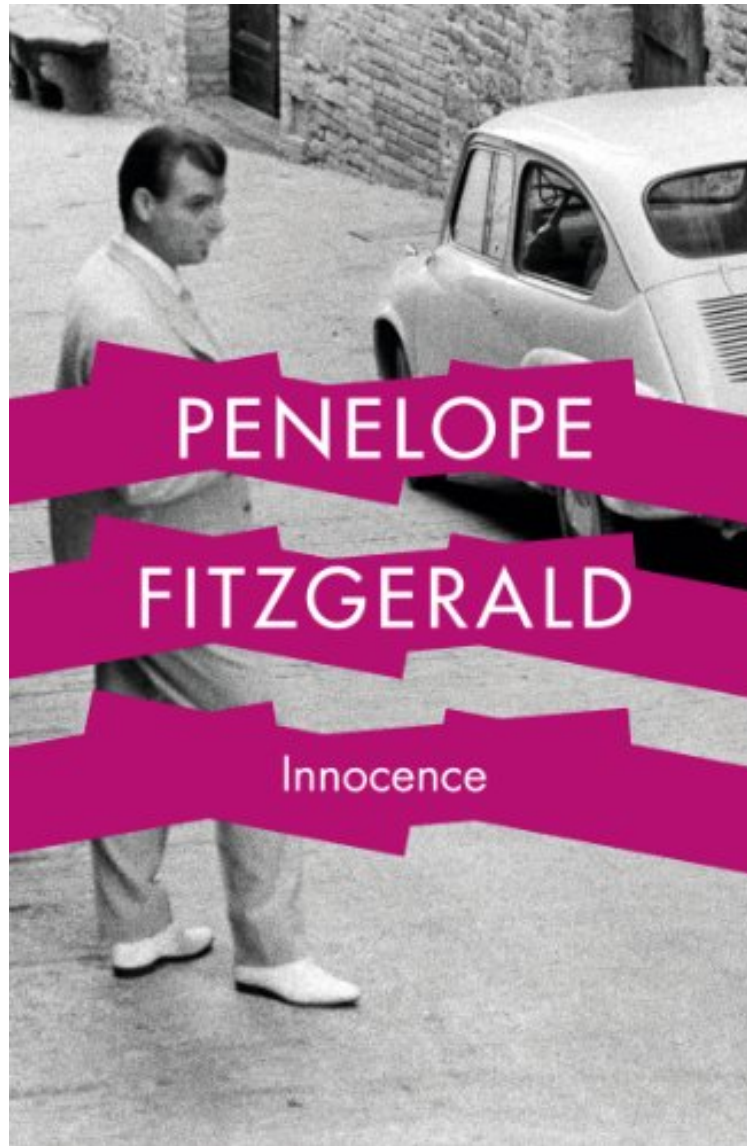


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## Innocence

*Von Penelope Fitzgerald*

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**Von Penelope Fitzgerald : Innocence** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Innocence:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Pleasant, rather conventional social comedyVon Stephen O. Murray"Innocence" may be Penelope Fitzgerald's most conventional novel. It is the first of those (7) that I've read that I didn't finish in a day. As usual, it is character-driven with a rich assortment of characters, a precisely limned milieu (Tuscany in the mid-50s), and several desultory plots

filled with misunderstandings. The focus of this rather Forsterian novel is not on the overconfident, tall young Englishwoman running amok in Italy. I'm not sure there is a focus. What clicks between the romantic leads, Chiara, an Italian countess just back from an English convent school and Salvatore, a hypersensitive-to-perceived slights doctor of Southern peasant origins, remains mysterious. The (not particularly prosperous) noble family throws up no objections, though an aunt's attempt to help the newlyweds nearly has fatal consequences. The doctor's father was an admirer of Gramsci and brought his son, then aged ten, to visit the dying Gramsci (for me the book's most memorable scene).  
0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Beautiful Background, Frustrating Story. Von Ein Kunde  
I so wanted to love this book. And I tried. But try as I might, and as beautifully written as it was, I could not identify with the characters. We are given only the tiniest glimpse of the first encounter between a young woman and a cold male doctor, and from this un-rememberable encounter, we are supposed to believe that they are so wildly obsessed with each other that nothing can keep them apart. And yet - the doctor yells at the girl, insults her, chases her away - but feels sorry later, and tells his friend that he cannot be happy without her. And she - somehow presses on (and on, and on) in spite of his frightfully ugly spirit. If only their first encounter had been passionate or even exciting (!) I would have been able to believe the rest.  
0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Wanted to love it...just couldn't  
Von Ein Kunde  
I must agree with the reviewer from California. The author has a wonderful opportunity to show the reader scenes which explain why the protagonist is drawn to her difficult lover. She misses the boat! Not only do we get very little interaction between these two characters, but it is difficult to come to care about them. The setting has so many possibilities, and I was truly disappointed.

Kurzbeschreibung  
Stunning modern new cover reissue of one of Penelope Fitzgerald's best-loved novels  
Innocence is set in the 1950s, when Italy was picking up the pieces after the war. Chiara Ridolfi is the guileless daughter of a decrepit Italian family. Barney is her practical English girlfriend, who can sum up a man, she says, in one firm hand-grip. Salvatore is a penniless doctor from the south, who thinks he is proof against politics, social conscience and tenderness. Chiara's cousin, Cesare, says very little, which gives him time to think  
Pressestimmen  
`Reading a Penelope Fitzgerald novel is like being taken for a ride in a peculiar kind of car. Everything is of top quality - the engine, the coachwork and the interior all fill you with confidence. Then, after a mile or so, someone throws the steering-wheel out of the window.'  
Sebastian Faulks  
`Wise and ironic, funny and humane, Fitzgerald is a wonderful, wonderful writer.'  
David Nicholls  
`Penelope Fitzgerald's Innocence seems to me to be about real people undergoing real experiences, more real and more interesting than most biographies, and it carries absolute conviction as to time and place. What more could one ask of a novel?'  
Spectator Books of the Year  
`Innocence weilds a curious fascination, replete with the sense of sleepy, slightly anxious fatalism that pervades much of the Italian cinema of the period. Its magic, and its message, are as oblique and inconclusive as the lives of its characters, but both have a lingering power, refreshingly fictive, deliciously un-English.'  
Literary  
`I know of no one who expresses so deftly and entertainingly the way in which life seldom turns out as expected. A wonderful book.'  
Spectator  
`This is by far the fullest and richest of Penelope Fitzgerald's novels, and also the most ambitious. Her writing, as ever, has a natural authority, is very funny, warm and gently ironic, and full of tenderness towards human beings and their bravery in living.'  
TL  
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