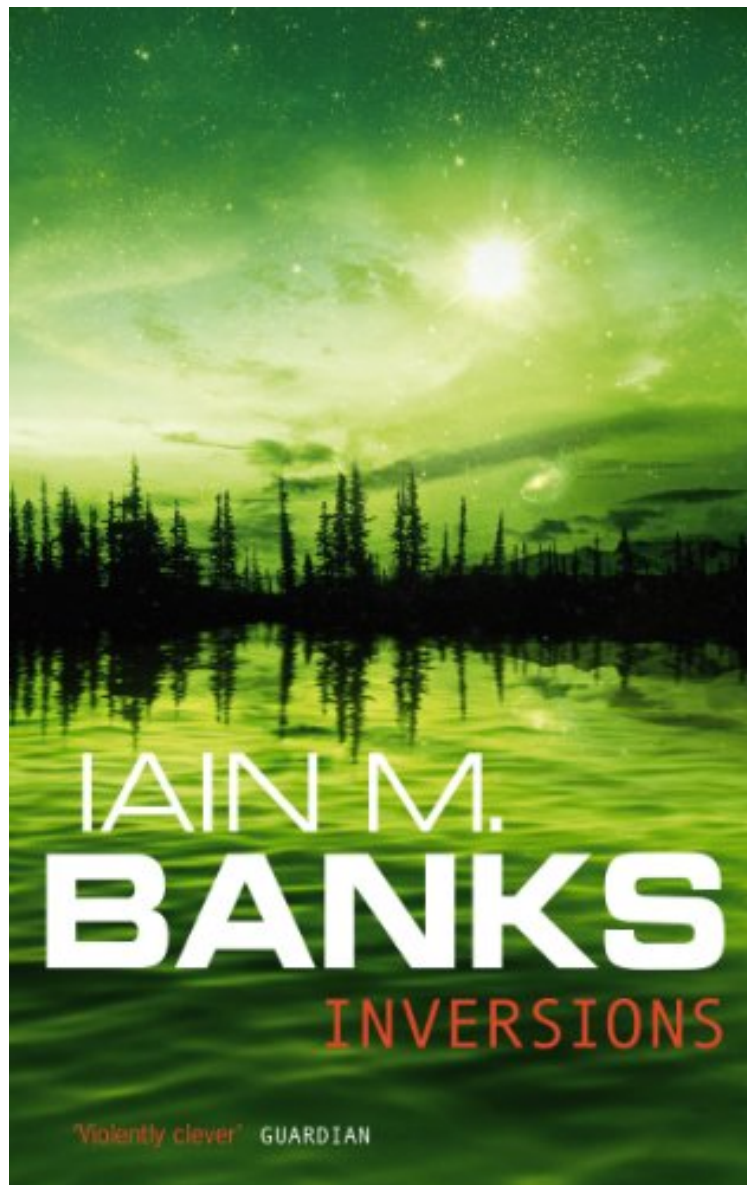


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Inversions (Culture series)

Von Iain M. Banks

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Von Iain M. Banks : Inversions (Culture series) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Inversions (Culture series):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen5 von 5 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Solid story, but not Banks' bestVon Klaus SchmitzThe title suggests it - Inversions tells the story of two people, a healer and a warrior, one the yin to the other's yang, both close to powerful rulers, both entangled in power plays. A cleverly

constructed book, even if not so fiendishly structured like Banks' "Use of Weapons", *Inversions* is somehow missing this little extra kick of personal tragedy and black humour that made "Consider Phlebas" and "Use of Weapons" so precious gems in the landscape of science fiction. Be that as it may, "Inversions" is still a very entertaining novel, a story of two people who are more than they seem on a somewhat backward planet. Banks readers from his other sf books should be warned that there are no fleets of bizarre named spaceships or nosy drones to be found in *Inversions*, but his fantastic writing and fine characterization make even a low-tech (with few but oh so surprising exceptions) story an enjoyable read, though anybody who tries this book should have read at least one Culture-novel from Banks to better appreciate all those innuendos and especially one major turn-of-events. 5 von 5 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Two stories. Two books. Von P. Mizukami *Inversions* is actually not one, but two books. I'm not saying that because it goes back and forth from two different narratives that mirror each other. I'm saying that because it is, really, two different books. If you've read the Culture novels (*Consider Phlebas*, *The Player of Games*, *Use of Weapons*), you'll understand things differently than if you haven't. If you've read the Culture novels, it will be pure science-fiction. If you haven't, it will be pure medieval fantasy. Anyway, it will be a very enjoyable read. That's Iain M. Banks for you. People argue whether this is a Culture novel or not. Simply put, it is. And no, that's not a spoiler. It's a very obvious Culture novel -- only without the space opera pyrotechnics. If you are new to Iain M. Banks, this is as good a place to start as any. If you have access to the other Culture novels, though, I'd suggest starting with them. Any will do. But do read them, Banks is a genius. 2 von 2 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Notable Diversion From Banks Usual Von Anne Schroeder-lanz I wholly agree with Schmitz' summary; this one is not Banks at his hitherto known best. (I read it when it came out about 2 years ago - or some such.) Regardless of that: what I still consider great about it are the descriptions of psychological insights gained/described so fastidiously in well-known Banks tradition: inching back from all the techie stuff and towards more - shall we say - comprehensive discussion of human motivations in view of life's random quirks. 'Use Of Weapons' used to be my favourite, but 'Inversions' has topped it. His latest 'Look To Windward' (with dutiful back-reading of 'Consider Phlebas') do much for me, but not enough to endanger this jewel.

Kurzbeschreibung In the winter palace, the King's new physician has more enemies than she at first realises. But then she also has more remedies to hand than those who wish her ill can know about. In another palace across the mountains, in the service of the regicidal Protector General, the chief bodyguard, too, has his enemies. But his enemies strike more swiftly, and his means of combating them are more traditional. Spiralling round a central core of secrecy, deceit, love and betrayal, *INVERSIONS* is a spectacular work of science fiction, brilliantly told and wildly imaginative, from an author who has set genre fiction alight. Science fiction readers know that Iain Banks writes "respectable" novels (such as *The Wasp Factory*) while his alter ego Iain M. Banks produces equally well-written but often more playful sci-fi--most famously, the gaudy and galaxy- spanning Culture series. In *Inversions*, Banks is being tricky again. Besides extra moons in the sky and stories of devastating meteor showers that toppled a former Empire, this novel's squalid, preindustrial world seems to have no sci-fi elements. The two entwined stories feature a woman who becomes personal physician to one kingdom's absolute monarch, and the male bodyguard of a rival and more "progressive" country's Cromwell-like Protector. Both protagonists are mysterious outsiders from farther away than the King or Protector can ever imagine. Readers of Banks's other science fiction will spot the clues to their origins. Others may be slightly puzzled, especially by a seeming miracle which intervenes when the doctor faces torture--but can still enjoy the elegant narrative reversals, reflections and echoes. There are also generous helpings of blood, violence, poisoning, ingenious deceptions and high excitement, spiced with political philosophy. Banks continues his pleasant habit of never repeating himself. --David Langford *Pressestimmen* A fantastic, awe-inspiring book ... I can't imagine anyone not being won over by this deeply entertaining, thought-provoking and humane story (*EXPRESS*) Taut, hilarious and wicked (*MAIL ON SUNDAY*) Compulsive Banksian reading ... thoughtful, intelligently bloody stuff (*SFX*) Captivating ... incisive ... as sublime as ever (*TIME OUT*)