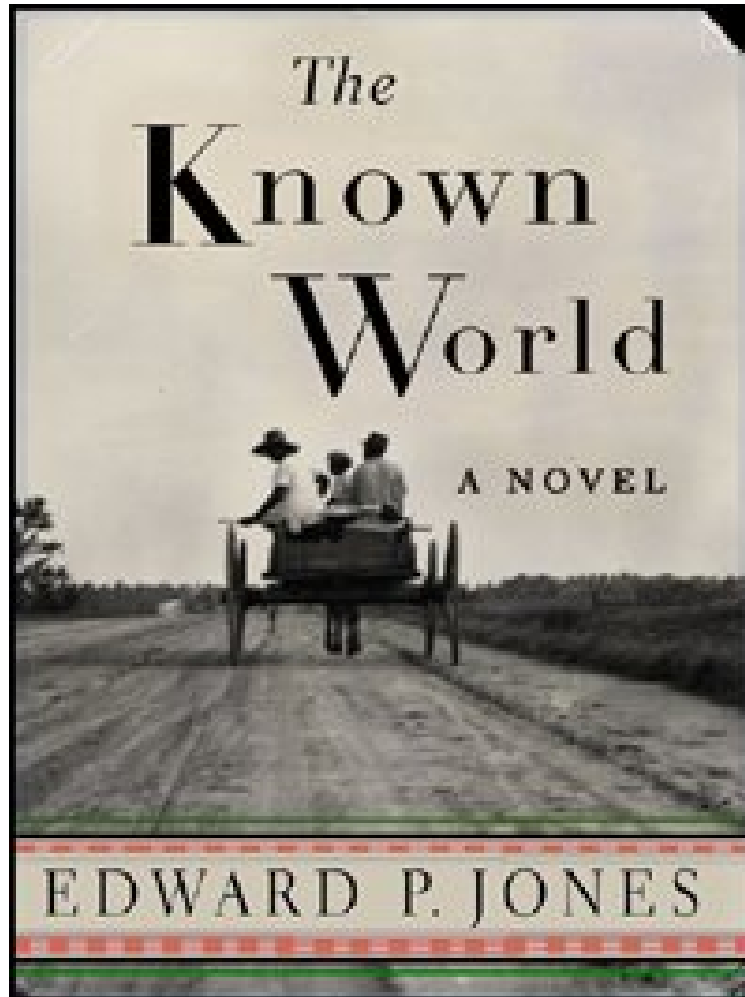


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## The Known World

*Von Edward P. Jones*

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Produktinformation -Verkaufsrang: #278003 in eBooksVerffentlicht am: 2009-03-17Erscheinungsdatum: 2009-03-17File Name: B000FC12GO | File size: 66.Mb

**Von Edward P. Jones : The Known World** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Known World:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen14 von 14 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. An epic view of The Known World of black slavemastersVon Grady HarpEdward P. Jones has succeeded - no, triumphed - in writing an epic scale novel about an aspect of American history little known to most of us. Scholars of African American history are well informed that during the 1800s, when slavery was a way of life for both whites and blacks, there were many permutations of who is master and who is slave. The fact that former slaves, granted their freedom by whatever means, purchased their own cadre of slaves may sound shocking to some readers and it seems that it is that audience of readers to whom Jones wishes to address this story. Based on facts and related in a way that, however lyrically written is the story line, makes this novel seem like historical biography, Jones has created a novel

that is compelling, beautifully composed, and very smart. His characters are so vivid that they grow to inhabit our minds, engaging our empathy and disgust as well as any characters in fiction. The story of Henry and Caldonia Townsend, Fern Elston, the Robbins, the Skiffingtons, mad Alice, Zeddie, Loretta, Elias, Louis, Dora et cetera has been well outlined in the other reviews of this major book. But what takes this novel a step further than just being a fascinating tale is Jones' use of language. He waxes musically in describing the boundaries and inner spaces of his Known World of the plantation (closed to the slaves by the boundaries of the land and the legacy of ownership). He manages to be so intimate with the lives of his characters that he even chances to suggest the homoerotic underpinnings between Louis and Elias without calling attention to the fact that he is doing anything more than creating complete people. His use of the vernacular goes beyond merely the very tersely studied dialogue and extends into the mindset of the character who is remembering or postulating. Some novelists would elect to find that vernacular voice and then force the entire novel into its cadence, a style choice that can make a story cumbersome. Not Jones. When the story is reportage or in the minds of the non-slaves, Jones writes in melodic and eloquent prose, not unlike an orchestra in collaboration with soloists. This is a slow read and that is a good thing: speed reading THE KNOWN WORLD would deprive the reader of the warmly languorous pace of the times in which these wholly credible people "lived." A very fine book!

5 von 5 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Vielschichtig, unbequem und mutig - ein Must-Read! Von Miezekatze "The Known World" malt ein auergewöhnliches, buntes Sittengemälde der Südstaaten 1840-1860, das sich mit dem Thema Sklaverei beschäftigt und dabei eine ungewöhnliche Perspektive einnimmt: Im zentralen Handlungsstrang baut sich der freigekaufte ex-Sklave Henry Townsend mit Hilfe seines ex-Herrn selbst eine Plantage auf - inklusive eigener Sklaven! Wie gut, dass "The Known World" von einem Afro-Amerikaner geschrieben ist - einem weißen Autor hätte man hier Verdrehung der Tatsachen o.ä. unterstellt. Doch Jones hat akribisch die Geschichte von Manchester County in Virginia recherchiert und seinen Roman klug mit den historischen Ereignissen und Tatsachen verknüpft - und siehe da, schwarze Sklavenbesitzer waren häufiger als vermutet. Jones geht mit Mut weit über Haileys Klassiker "Roots" hinaus und zeigt die Schattenseiten nicht nur der weißen, sondern auch der schwarzen Seele auf. So dreht sich "The Known World" um das moralische Dilemma von den schwarzen und weißen Kollaborateuren und Profiteuren des Systems, und der Roman beleuchtet jede Spielart zwischen weiß/schwarz und Herr/Sklave. Dabei ist "The Known World" bewundernswert differenziert und schafft es, sich Schwarzweiß-Malereien und platten Opfer-Tier-Dichotomien zu enthalten. Dass Jones sich mit Urteilen über seine Protagonisten zurückhält, macht seinen Roman umso kraftvoller und eindringlicher. Jede der vielen Figuren ist vielschichtig, hat gute wie schlechte Seiten und kommt überzeugend dreidimensional rüber. Die Handlungsstränge sind komplex und dicht miteinander verwoben - die Akteure von Manchester County kommen auf jeder Sprosse der gesellschaftlichen Leiter lebendig rüber, und ihre Schicksale reihen sich mit, während gleichzeitig ein differenziertes Bild der Südstaatengesellschaft mit all ihrer Doppelmoral entsteht. Ein kleiner Kritikpunkt: Der Roman ist bisweilen überkonstruiert, und er braucht lange, bis er den Spannungsbogen aufbaut und zu Hochspannung aufluft. Bis dahin ist er dennoch nicht langweilig, denn Jones ist ein begnadeter Erzähler des Anekdotischen. Und die Geschichten sind auergewöhnlich und so noch nie erzählt worden! Was besonders beim Hörbuch auffällt, ist Jones' brillante Beherrschung des Dialogs und der Sprechweisen der einzelnen Schichten, was dem Roman weitere Kraft und Authentizität verleiht. Als besonderer Tipp: Das ungekürzte Hörbuch wird im englischen Original brillant gelesen von Kevin Free, der wirklich jeden Dialekt perfekt hinbekommt vom weißen Plantagenbesitzer über den Nordstaatler über das schwarze freigelassene Bildungsbürgertum bis hin zum Sklaven auf den Feldern - das hebt das Buch noch in eine weitere Dimension! Unbedingte Kaufempfehlung. Fazit: Muss man gelesen/gehört haben - 5 Sterne!

5 von 5 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Moving, Astonishing Teaching Von Kristin Hogk Not only is this book written in a language full of wonderful melodies and pictures, but it also brings us closer to a world many of us cannot imagine. What's it like to be a slave? What's it like to be a white man in a world of two groups of human beings so differently seen and treated? And how is it possible that black people, sometimes former slaves themselves, have the desire to employ and treat poorly their own slaves? Dive into this "other" world, full of cruelty, little moments of beauty, and believes so strong that you will be amazed, you have to be.

**Kurzbeschreibung** From Edward P. Jones comes one of the most acclaimed novels in recent memory winner of the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction and the National Book Critics Circle Award for Fiction. The Known World tells the story of Henry Townsend, a black farmer and former slave who falls under the tutelage of William Robbins, the most powerful man in Manchester County, Virginia. Making certain he never circumvents the law, Townsend runs his affairs with unusual discipline. But when death takes him unexpectedly, his widow, Caldonia, can't uphold the estate's order, and chaos ensues. Edward P. Jones has woven a footnote of history into an epic that takes an unflinching look at slavery in all its moral complexities. A masterpiece that deserves a place in the American literary canon. Time.de Set in Manchester County, Virginia, 20 years before the Civil War began, Edward P. Jones's debut novel, The Known World, is a masterpiece of overlapping plot lines, time shifts, and heartbreaking details of life under slavery. Caldonia

Townsend is an educated black slaveowner, the widow of a well-loved young farmer named Henry, whose parents had bought their own freedom, and then freed their son, only to watch him buy himself a slave as soon as he had saved enough money. Although a fair and gentle master by the standards of the day, Henry Townsend had learned from former master about the proper distance to keep from one's property. After his death, his slaves wonder if Caldonia will free them. When she fails to do so, but instead breaches the code that keeps them separate from her, a little piece of Manchester County begins to unravel. Impossible to rush through, *The Known World* is a complex, beautifully written novel with a large cast of characters, rewarding the patient reader with unexpected connections, some reaching into the present day. --Regina Marler.com

Set in Manchester County, Virginia, 20 years before the Civil War began, Edward P. Jones's debut novel, *The Known World*, is a masterpiece of overlapping plot lines, time shifts, and heartbreaking details of life under slavery. Caldonia Townsend is an educated black slaveowner, the widow of a well-loved young farmer named Henry, whose parents had bought their own freedom, and then freed their son, only to watch him buy himself a slave as soon as he had saved enough money. Although a fair and gentle master by the standards of the day, Henry Townsend had learned from former master about the proper distance to keep from one's property. After his death, his slaves wonder if Caldonia will free them. When she fails to do so, but instead breaches the code that keeps them separate from her, a little piece of Manchester County begins to unravel. Impossible to rush through, *The Known World* is a complex, beautifully written novel with a large cast of characters, rewarding the patient reader with unexpected connections, some reaching into the present day. --Regina Marler