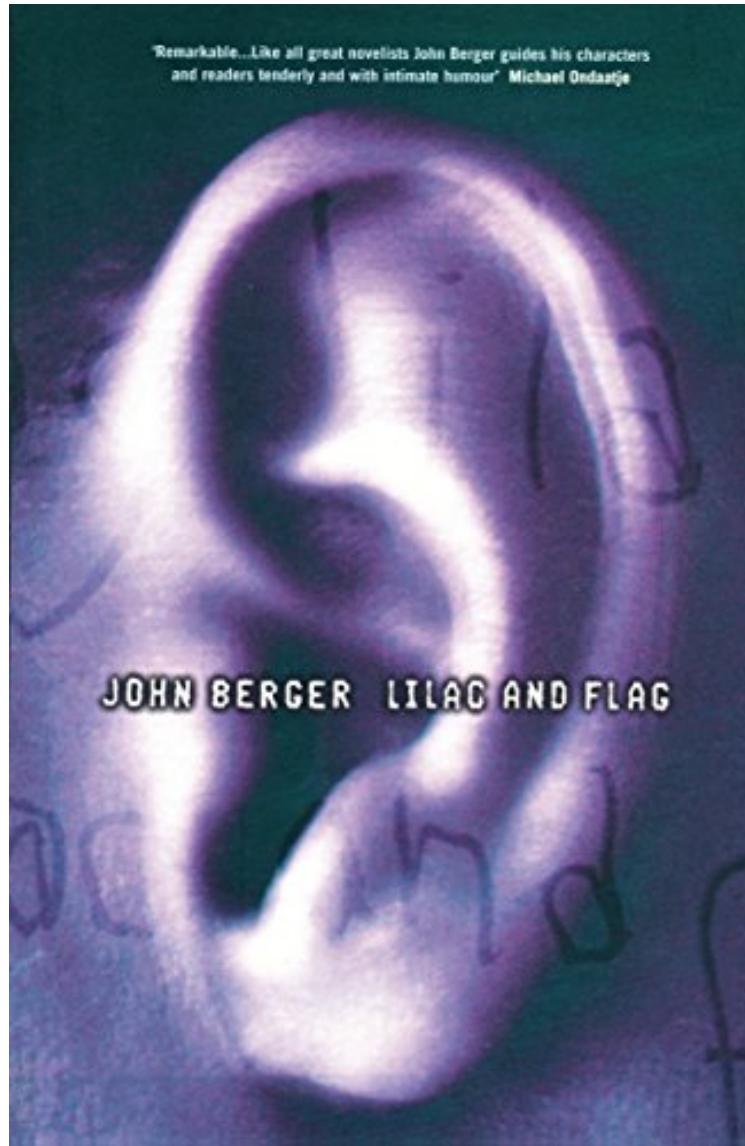


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## Lilac and Flag

*Von John Berger*

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**Von John Berger : Lilac and Flag** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Lilac and Flag:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. The fruits of working as migrantsVon Alfred J. KwakThird and final volume of his trilogy about the demise of peasant farming in Europe because of globalisation. Missed vol.1, but enjoyed vol.2 Once in Europa, situated in the French Alps and highlighting the human, demographic and environmental impact of a huge hydro-powered smelter. It was full

of micro history, human interest and drama and quite clear about why the young left and cheap migrant labour came in. Lilac and Flag is quite different. Found the first 50 pages challenging, to say the least. A stream of consciousness, a dogs dinner about lots of persons with strange (nick)names? No paragraph or page made sense. Perseverance provided some clarity soon after, with more coherent pages and paragraphs rooted vaguely and indirectly in JB's lifelong Marxist orientation: Capitalism as the root cause of everything wrong in the world today, in rural communities as in urban centres. The universe he creates is Troy, a fantasy seaside megacity with steep hills whose neighbourhoods and other landmarks are named e.g. Las Vegas, Chicago, Alexanderplatz or Budapest station. In Troy, migrants have no chance, perspective or future beyond dangerous jobs without protection. They live in rat-infested shanty towns. Some turn to crime and violence. One character reads his world daily, not in print but for any signs of opportunity to turn weakness into profit. First published in 1990, it could be called a work of magic realism or a vague manifesto overgrown by distractions and obfuscations. It has little flow, the characters are hard to bond with, much of the imagery, poetry, listings incomprehensible or irrelevant. However, as an experimental type of book full of weird detail and lyrical prose reader-unfriendly to most John Berger (1926-2017) made few concessions to the mainstream literary conventions he abhorred. Suspect a second reading to be more enlightening and pleasurable, a third even more so, etc. Finally, I found the way he ended the book brilliant and heart warming. .0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. About the love and its power in this end of millennium .Von Ein Kunde From a European reader's point of view, this is one of the most interesting descriptions about the size of love in this end of century. Both main characters represent the difficulty of being a lover in the middle of these times of cholera. Lilac and Flag are simple workers. They don't know much about books, poetry or culture but they know what means fall in love, what represents to love another human being in its city, which represents all the big European cities. As the author does in "To the wedding", "Lilac and Flag" represents simply the love and its power in these sad days of poverty, destruction and exploitation of weak people. Thanks for your work John and your way to understand the existence. We'll continue reading you.

Kurzbeschreibung In the mythic city of Troy, amidst the shanty-towns, factories, opulent hotels, fading heritages and steadfast dreams, the children and grandchildren of rural peasants pursue meagre livings as best they can. And two young lovers embark upon a passionate journey of love and survival. Pressestimmen A magnificent trilogy. [Into Their Labours] is moving in an almost unbearable way."-- Anthony Burgess As Dickens and Balzac did for their time, so, John Berger does for ours, rendering the movement of a people and the passing of a way of life in his masterwork, the Into Their Labours trilogy. With Lilac and Flag, the Alpine village of the two earlier volumes has been forsaken for the mythic city of Troy. Here, amidst the shantytowns, factories, and opulent hotels, fading heritages and steadfast dreams, the children and grandchildren of rural peasants pursue meager livings as best they can. And here, two young lovers embark upon a passionate, desperate journey of love and survival and find transcending hope both for themselves and for us as their witnesses. "Remarkable.... Like all great novelists, all great people, [John Berger] guides his characters and his readers tenderly and with intimate humor. There is the voice of Isaiah and Jeremiah in this book, but also the compassion of a New Testament."-- Michael Ondaatje Kurzbeschreibung In the mythic city of Troy, amidst the shanty-towns, factories, opulent hotels, fading heritages and steadfast dreams, the children and grandchildren of rural peasants pursue meagre livings as best they can. And two young lovers embark upon a passionate journey of love and survival.