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The Volcano Lover: A Romance (Penguin Modern Classics)

Von Susan Sontag

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Von Susan Sontag : The Volcano Lover: A Romance (Penguin Modern Classics) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Volcano Lover: A Romance (Penguin Modern Classics):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A Completely Absorbing NovelVon Ein KundeThe first time I sat down to read The Volcano Lover, I closed the book and did not open it again for more than a year. Its opening did not grip me in the least. But luckily someone

encouraged me to pick it up again, and I now rate it as one of my favorite reads. This novel has driven me to the Huntington Museum to observe the portrait of Emma Hamilton. The novel shows the truth of passion as it explores in depth those things that give our lives their meaning, and they are all--individuals, art, nature--that about which we feel an inexplicable fervor.0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Romance RevisitedVon blondiegdSusan Sontag's the 'Volcano Lover' is a book that you have to start reading on the condition that you are used to problematic beginnings in books. Towards the middle, however, the story becomes a painting; one that some characters in the book would certainly want for their collection. Being drawn in a partly biographical story of eminent people of their time you would expect to focus on its credibility. However, it is a work that not only satisfies a kind of voyeurism, but also cultivates your fancy via the unexpectedly provocative temperaments of its characters during an 18th century Europe. The fact that they are the stereotypical protagonists of a romance can only add to the success of the story. That happens since the characters existed in reality as well and this knowledge alone evokes further amusing thoughts; The Beauty and the Beast meet Clark Kent and the end of the story comes as no surprise. The characters however leave their own mark, despite the subjective commentary of an unknown narrator. Reality is there for us to see and the exotic element sought by the characters is twice as exotic to the reader of the 21st century. Sontag lets the various narrators do the trick of exalting your curiosity with passing comments that however, leave your thoughts unaffected. Objectivity and partiality are mixed but she manages to let the romantic story evolve without interfering - not till the story is told. I, at least, was left with the impression that she let history speak for itself and that the only thing she did was to put some more powder on the wigs of her so carefully chosen protagonists. And boy, did she do a lot more. A romance at the heart of history and a writer thriving on the most demanding task of autofiction.0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. I wish the whole of this work exceeded the sum of its parts.Von Ein KundeMuch as I admire Sontag, and much as I would like to rate THE VOLCANO LOVER with five stars, second thoughts intervene. I would describe those reservations by recalling what was once said about Beethoven's Ninth Symphony: namely, that it contains both his best and his worst efforts. One would second the observations of those reviewers who, in various ways, have suggested that this work embraces a real cornucopia of stylistic devices; yet in the end, and after more than one rereading, I find artifice sometimes taking precedence over art. In particular, the character of Effrosina Pumo seems drawn with strokes that fail to resolve, and leaves me wondering if she was intended to serve as caricature or archetype--perhaps as Sontag herself would question certain feminist efforts. Still, there is much to be savored in THE VOLCANO LOVER, and self-appointed rival Camille Paglia's dismissal of it as "pedestrian" strikes this reviewer as a spitefully inadvertent confession of envy--to say little of her quip being an egotistically summary and platitudinous facsimile of criticism.If a bit sententious at times, Sontag's teeming insights into human nature, as inspired by her reflections on the many historical personages woven into the plot, are admirably, almost frighteningly keen. Dialogue, when used, displays a virtuosically wide range of stylistic mastery. Perhaps this novel is a necessary step in the process of learning to integrate a large number of ideas and methods into a seamless and dramatically balanced whole, as Mozart is sometimes credited with accomplishing. (Interestingly, Mozart enters into both form and content of the plot, even if Sontag once reduced "much of Mozart" to "camp".) Perhaps we should look forward to Sontag's masterpiece, while thanking her for taking the artistic risks necessary to prepare for it.

KurzbeschreibungA historical romance, Sontag's book is based on the lives of Sir William Hamilton, his wife, Emma, and Lord Nelson in the final decades of the eighteenth century. Passionately examining the shape of Western civilization since the Age of Enlightenment, Sontag's novel is an exquisitely detailed picture of revolution, the fate of nature, art and love.Pressestimmen"The Volcano Lover is a great novel. It repeatedly scales heights of complex thought, passion and expression that few American writers ever approach, while reimagining a majestic love story in dazzling style." -- The Philadelphia InquirerKurzbeschreibungA historical romance, Sontag's book is based on the lives of Sir William Hamilton, his wife, Emma, and Lord Nelson in the final decades of the eighteenth century. Passionately examining the shape of Western civilization since the Age of Enlightenment, Sontag's novel is an exquisitely detailed picture of revolution, the fate of nature, art and love.