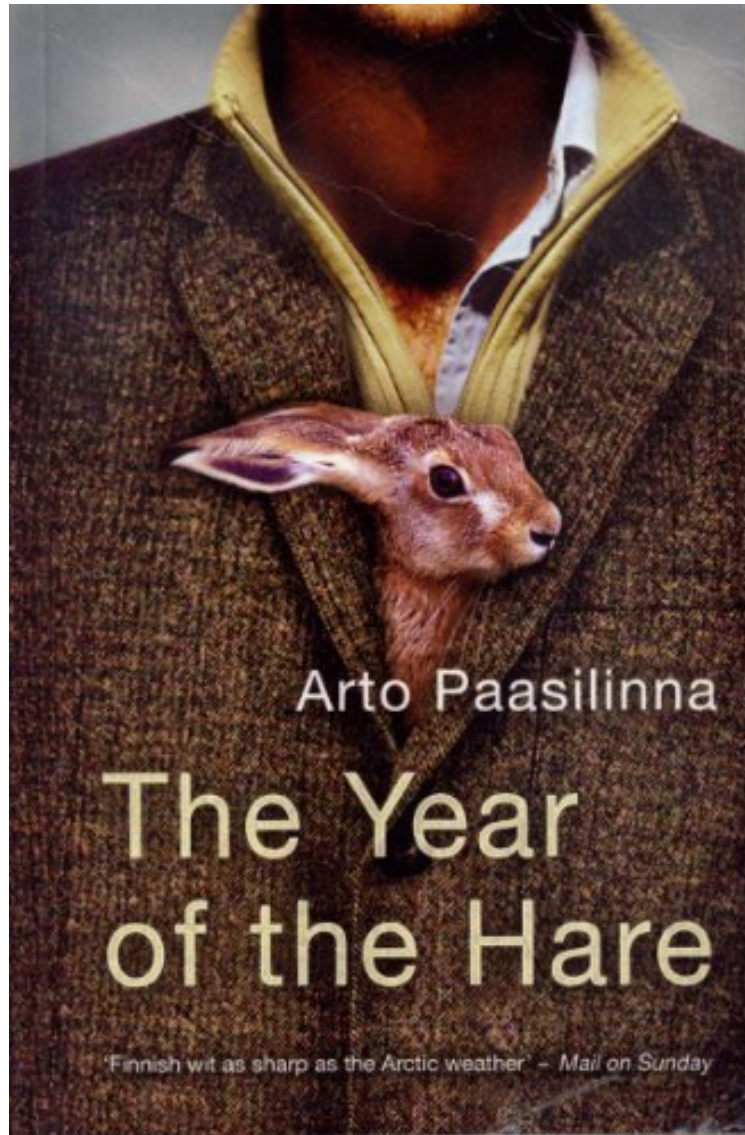


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The Year of the Hare

Von Arto Paasilinna

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Von Arto Paasilinna : The Year of the Hare before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Year of the Hare:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen6 von 6 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. simply great.Von Ein KundeThe Year of the Hare was the first Paasilinna book i've read. Since then i've tried to read them all. The style of this finnish author is so fluid that you won't stop reading untill the book is finished.(Martin from Berlin.)0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Eine Reise quer durch die finnische Einsamkeit (mit einem

Haasen) Von Bibliofilo Im Roman *The Year of the Hare* beschreibt der finnische Autor Arto Paasilinna - in bester skandinavischer Erzähltradition - die kuriose Geschichte eines Journalisten, der während einer beruflichen Reise mit seinem Kollegen einen jungen Hasen anfährt, trotz des Unverständnis des Kollegen das Auto verlässt, um das verletzte Tier zu suchen und gesundzupflegen. Dieses Schlüsselereignis wird zum Wendepunkt eines nicht gerade zufriedenstellenden Lebens und Anlass, Frau, Arbeit und dem Zivilisationschaos den Rücken zuzukehren, um sich in einer vollen Existenzkrise mit dem verletzten Hasen auf eine Reise durch die einsame Provinz Finnlands zu machen. In einer knappen aber präzisen Sprache wird der Leser durch kurios schräge Begegnungen in der finnischen Einsamkeit geführt. Vom zahnlosen alten Holzflügel, der altes Kriegsmaterial aus dem zweiten Weltkrieg an einen Schrotthändler verschachert, bis zu einem pensionierten Polizeipräsidenten der finnischen Provinz, der verbissen den Beweis seiner Verschwörungstheorie um die Ersetzung des finnischen Präsidenten durch einen Doppelgänger sucht, stolpert die Hauptfigur durch ein buntes Gemisch schräger Vögel der finnischen Einsamkeit. Die Odyssee mit dem Hasen führt den Journalisten schließlich sogar über die Grenze in die damals noch bestehenden Sowjetunion. Die Irrfahrt der Hauptfigur durch scheinbar banale Episoden gibt dem Autor allerdings auch ausführlich Anlass zu Sozialkritik, wobei er scharfsinnig und mit viel Ironie die Absurditäten der modernen Welt darstellt (die Geschehnisse um die NATO Manöver in Lappland und um die Party des lokalen Parteibonzen sind emblematisch hierfür). Ein kleines liebenswertes Buch, das den normalen Blickwinkel gehörig verreckt und in der schrägen skandinavischen Art eine durchaus lesenswerte Reise erzählt.

Kurzbeschreibung *Vatanen the journalist is feeling burnt out and sick of the city. One summer evening while on assignment his car hits a young hare on a country road. He goes in search of the injured creature. This small incident becomes a life-changing experience for Vatanen as he decides to break free from the world's constraints. He quits his job, leaves his wife, sells his possessions to travel the Finnish wilds with his new-found friend. Their adventures take in forest fires, pagan sacrifices, military war games, killer bears and much more. A long-time best-seller in Finland and in France, *The Year of the Hare* is the author's favourite among his works. It has also been translated into Italian, German, Dutch, Greek, Hungarian, Japanese, Swedish and many other languages. It is frequently dramatized for the stage and has twice been made into a movie.* From Publishers Weekly In this back-to-nature picaresque from Finland, a "dissatisfied, cynical" journalist adopts an injured leveret as his companion on a series of mildly quixotic, satirically rendered wanderings. Leaving behind a spiritless job and a loveless marriage in Helsinki, middle-aged Kaarlo Vatanen lights out for the territories, the hare de-civilizing him as much as he tames it. While the hare wavers between companion, pet and symbol, the pair's innocent retreat is complicated at every turn by either man or nature. Foresters, bureaucrats and endangered-species laws are as likely to threaten them as bears, ravens and forest fires as they travel to the Arctic Circle and across the Russian border. Paasilinna's low-key narrative is translated plainly, but it never makes the most of its protagonists' experiences, despite such tempting scenarios as a bear hunt hosted for diplomats by the Finnish military or a defrocked divinity student looking for animal sacrifices for Finno-Ugric rituals. Instead, these adventures of a man and his hare unfold as superficially, though with as much ease, as a daydream. Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Booklist A Finnish journalist and a photographer out on assignment one June evening suddenly hit a young hare on a country road. The photographer, ultimately unsympathetic, abandons his journalist companion Vatanen, who sets off to find the wounded hare. Vatanen develops a close bond with the hare and in their adventures together, they witness people's avarice, inhumaneness, hypocrisy, cruelty, participation in bureaucracy, and mere existence, rather than living, in the world. This last realization in particular is life altering for Vatanen: he quits his job, discards his hopeless marriage, sacrifices financial security, and sells his most prized possession (a boat). All this Vatanen replaces with a life of odd jobs and on-the-road experiences. This picaresque novel could simply depict a middle-age crisis, but it reaches beyond fantasy or fiction, becoming mythic in its universal themes. The story is inventive, satirical, and quite humorous. It is also refreshingly sentimental in the sense that Paasilinna reaffirms our connection with the animal world and our inherent need for happiness and freedom to maintain quality of life. Janet St. John