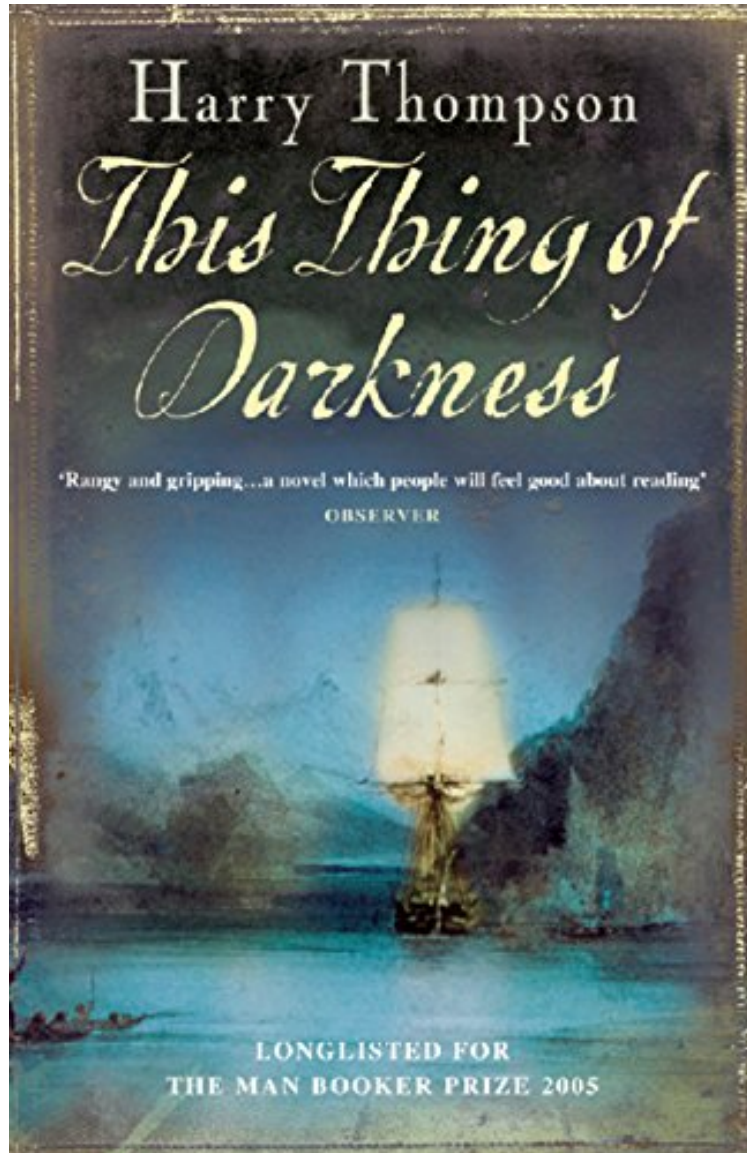


[Download] This Thing Of Darkness (English Edition)

## This Thing Of Darkness (English Edition)

Von Harry Thompson

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**Von Harry Thompson : This Thing Of Darkness (English Edition)** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised This Thing Of Darkness (English Edition):

Kundenrezensionen Hilfreichste Kundenrezensionen 2 von 2 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Most impressive sailor experiences Von B. Cecile This book tells the most impressive story of Captain Robert Fitzroy's entire life, who made some world changing journeys to Tierra del Fuego - the very south of South America- and later in his life he was maybe the first professional meteorologist. I most liked the beginning and the end of the book. Everything

begins with Fitzroy's very first journey to Tierra del Fuego, where he gets known with some natives, which become his friends. He thinks, he can help them by bringing them to England, and afterwards they can civilize they're own people in they're home. He thinks he is doing something good to them, surely later he will think quite an other way of all these things. I also liked very much the discussions between Fitzroy and Darwin about transmutation, it was quite interesting to see how people still believed in every single word of the Bible in these times, nowadays quite unimaginably. After realizing this, I was very surprised how fast Darwin got famous, already when they went back from there journey. Although the most of the English people were quite religious, everyone wanted to hear the philosopher's ideas. The middle part of the book is not so exciting like the beginning, long times are passed between the different chapters, and so it seemed to me, that in the middle part only the tragic outlines of Fitzroy and his former shipmate Darwin lives are told, the deaths of different family members. It is also quite tragic to see, how in Captain Fitzroy's point of view nobody seems to interest about his work, first about his book about the natives in Tierra del Fuego, later nobody seems to believe and interest in his weather forecasts, everyone seems to laugh at him and his "senseless" work. That is even more tragic for Fitzroy as he is suffering of manic depression. Every honour goes to Mister Darwin, and his work becomes famous quite fast. I also like the end of the book, when the stories of the different main characters come together again. And one feels that in being a meteorologist Fitzroy is in his element once more. Also the Postscripts of the book are quite informative, but there are also some historical corrections which I didn't really want to know, because the way they are told in the story I liked them much more. It was also interesting how men and women lived in the society these times, they were calling there own wife or husband Mister and Miss, today this sounds quite strange. This book also woke my interest about the South American history, so I was surprised to read that in Patagonia there was once a country of the natives ( the Mapuche ) which was recognized by the Spaniards until the 1880s, in school this was never mentioned. As woman, in the beginning I thought, I would miss the women characters in this book, but quickly the book gets so exciting that no one should even matter of this, and later, in the middle parts of the book there are enough women anyway. My only question that remained was why always mothers, wives and daughters are dying in different diseases, but very few sons, this was a little bit irritating to me. But the book is so good, that after it had stopped you will be sad about this, and one wants to know more. Also when the story is finished. I now get the urge to search for the books which Darwin and Fitzroy had written.

2 von 2 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. The Beagle's Boys Von Stephen A. Haines At the age of but 23 Robert FitzRoy mounted the deck of HMS Beagle as its captain. The ship was called a "coffin brig" for its inability to resist a combination of high seas and cross-winds. FitzRoy's apparent youth belied his long Naval experience - experience that would save the Beagle more than once. A British aristocrat of long lineage, that background didn't prevent him, as it did some, from bearing an enormous sense of responsibility for the ship's crew. When he was firm, it was for a reason, and the crew responded with rare loyalty. The Beagle's job was surveying the South American coast. That assignment and the need for a way to alleviate the captain's isolation set in train a momentous string of events. Under his tutelage, many of the Beagle's junior officers went on to noteworthy careers in later life. It's commendable that a fiction writer went to such effort to track down this information. There's an ongoing debate - sometimes rancorous - over the value of "historical fiction". Some claim it misleading, while others contend it brings to "life" figures often condemned to academic obscurity. Whatever the merits of converting history into fiction, in the hands of the proper writer, the effect can be illuminating. It certainly is with this excellent work. Thompson lifts the figure of FitzRoy from near obscurity - and sometime derision - transforming him into a figure of notable stature. The author breathes life into the man who sought to be Charles Darwin's nemesis. In the process Thompson shows that FitzRoy was a figure of high complexity, and not the dogmatist some histories have portrayed him. Thompson has no choice but to make Darwin something of a foil to the naval commander, although Darwin was just a few years younger than FitzRoy. It was Darwin's observations, and his reliance on the geological work of Charles Lyell, that led to questioning of the Biblical Flood. From that erosion of a major theme in the thinking of the early 19th Century, an entirely new science would be founded. From that step, a new view of life itself would also emerge. FitzRoy, even while submersed in his navel duties, understood the challenge to his own beliefs perfectly. His responses to Darwin's challenges are well expressed by Thompson's portrayal. FitzRoy, for example, is depicted as far less of a Victorian Era racist than Darwin, yet defended slavery as a means of "civilising" and "uplifting" those savage people who had been brought to South American shores. To FitzRoy, all men lived under the auspices of his deity. A life of slavery could be redeemed in paradise. FitzRoy carried a stigma, which Thompson deals with effectively. The former captain of the Beagle had committed suicide. FitzRoy's own uncle had sliced his throat, and he was subjected to periods of dark depression. At one point, FitzRoy resigned his command, feeling unfit to meet the challenge of his assignment. Convinced to retain the post, he carried out further work in some haste. The return trip around the globe to England took only 18 months of a five-year voyage. Thompson, however, is in no hurry and develops the parallel lives of Darwin and FitzRoy fully. The development is rewarding as we learn it was Robert FitzRoy who initiated serious meteorological studies of the British Isles and published a weather forecasting service to protect the lives of fisherman and naval and commercial sailors. FitzRoy, aware of where Charles Darwin's speculations in South America might lead him, and depressed by the vagaries of both public attention and the Admiralty's indifference, turns more inward, seeking solace in his Bible. He

considers it the ultimate truth, and in a speculative confrontation, Thompson has FitzRoy and Darwin thrash out their different views on last time. After publication of *The Origin of Species*, FitzRoy raised his final objections. Not long afterward, the captain followed his uncle's example and took his life. It's difficult to praise this book sufficiently. Thompson has undertaken a tremendous task and fulfilled it brilliantly. Knowing how "it all turns out" is of small consequence when reading this book. The author's skill in building the characters, his obvious sympathy for a tragic figure and his knowledge of events and attitudes of the characters and the times make this a most rewarding read.

[stephen a. haines - Ottawa, Canada] 0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Fesselnde und stimmungsvolle Biografie

Von Erinome Sdamerika, 1828: Der junge Captain Robert FitzRoy bernimmt das Kommando des Forschungsschiffs Beagle und macht sich daran, die Ksten Sdamerikas zu vermessen. Nach zahlreichen Abenteuern und einer entscheidenden Begegnung mit den Eingeborenen von Feuerland kehren FitzRoy und seine Crew nach England zurck, um gleich die nchste Vermessungsexpedition zu planen. Und der Wissenschaftler, der die Expedition begleiten soll, ist kein geringerer als der noch unbekannte Charles Darwin. FitzRoy und Darwin schlieen schnell Freundschaft, die Strapazen der Reise und Darwins Abkehr von der kirchlichen Doktrin belasten ihr Verhltnis jedoch schon bald. Wer *THIS THING OF DARKNESS* wegen Darwins Biografie liest, wird vermutlich herb enttuscht werden. Zentrum der Handlung ist Robert FitzRoy und sein Werdegang vom jungen Captain auf Forschungsreise bis zu seinem Versuch, die Meteorologie als ernstzunehmende Wissenschaft in Grobritannien zu etablieren. Und FitzRoy ist ein sehr vielschichtiger und vor allem sympathischer Charakter. Er ist ein prinzipientreuer und ehrenvoller Mann, dessen Weltbild durch seine Erlebnisse whrend der Expedition und durch Darwins Erkenntnisse immer wieder erschtttert wird. FitzRoy will Glauben und Wissenschaft vereinen und er versucht, die Rechte der Eingeborenen, denen er auf seinen Reisen begegnet, zu wahren und ihnen ein Leben im britischen Empire zu ermöglichen, was ihm nicht wenige Feinde einbringt. FitzRoys Verhltnis zu den Eingeborenen in Feuerland ist besonders wichtig und beschftigt ihn fr den Rest seines Lebens. FitzRoy leidet auerdem an einer bipolaren Strung, die periodisch auftritt und ihn ebenfalls fr den Rest seines Lebens begleitet. Sehr interessant ist hier, wie er mit seiner Erkrankung umgeht. Neben FitzRoy spielen Darwin, der Feuerlnder Jemmy Button und einige von FitzRoys Offizieren eine grere Rolle in der Handlung. Daneben gibt es natrlich noch unzhlige weitere Figuren, die fr den Plot relevant sind. Darwins Reisen werden etwas nher beschrieben und wir bekommen schne Einblicke in seine Arbeit. Auch der Zivilisierungsversuch der Eingeborenen ist wichtig fr die Handlung und FitzRoy spielt hier eine groe Rolle. Die Handlung von *THIS THING OF DARKNESS* ist mit stimmungsvollen und schnen Details von Sdamerika angereichert und ist auf die Entwicklung der einzelnen Figuren ausgerichtet. Wer atemlose Action erwartet, wird hier wohl keine Freude haben, obwohl die Spannung sicherlich nicht zu kurz kommt. Wer sich an einem ausgezeichnet recherchierten und fesselnden historischen Roman erfreuen kann und gerne mehr ber die "Hintermner" Darwins erfahren will, wird sicherlich seine Freude mit *THIS THING OF DARKNESS* haben. Ich bin begeistert. Sehr empfehlenswert!

**Kurzbeschreibung** In 1831 Charles Darwin set off in HMS Beagle under the command of Captain Robert Fitzroy on a voyage that would change the world. Tory aristocrat Fitzroy was a staunch Christian who believed in the sanctity of the individual in a world created by God. Darwin, the liberal natural historian destined for the church, went on to develop a theory of evolution that would cast doubt on the truth of the Bible and the descent of man. The staunch friendship forged during their epic expeditions on land and sea turned into bitter enmity as Darwin's theories threatened to destroy everything Fitzroy stood for . . .

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**Synopsis** This is an epic novel of sea-faring adventure set in the 19th century charting the life of Robert Fitzroy, the captain of the Beagle and his passenger Charles Darwin. It combines adventure, emotion, ideas, humour and tragedy as well as illuminating the history of the 19th century. Fitzroy, the Christian Tory aristocrat, believed in the sanctity of the individual, but his beliefs destroyed his career. Darwin, the liberal minor cleric, doubts the truth of the Bible and develops his theory of evolution which is brutal and unforgiving in human terms. The two friends became bitter enemies as Darwin destroyed everything Fitzroy stood for.