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## Springtime For Germany: or How I Learned to Love Lederhosen (English Edition)

Von Ben Donald

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Von Ben Donald : Springtime For Germany: or How I Learned to Love Lederhosen (English Edition) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Springtime For Germany: or How I Learned to Love Lederhosen (English Edition):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen46 von 47 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich.

Written for uninformed Brits only  
Von John Churchill  
All in all, I found this a saddening book, but what should I have expected from a book with a title based on "Springtime for Hitler: A Gay Romp With Eva and Adolf at Berchtesgaden" by Mel Brooks? Nevertheless, it is a shame, in particular as Ben Donald evidently put in a lot of time and research into making Germany appealing to the Brits. Unfortunately, there are numerous grammatical errors in the German ("Nur ein Schwein, drinkt allein"). Moreover, the book contradicts itself regularly. And above all, there are far too many overused clichés. (I grew very tired of reading the words "FKK" - supposedly pronounced "eff kar kar" - , Lederhosen", "Grossmannsucht" and Lebensraum" on every other page. Worse still, many of the statements are not only annoyingly flippant, but simply wrong, for instance: "A moustache for a German seemed to be part of the mythology of a longed-for national rural tradition. ... There was old Adolf himself, of course, with his postage stamp." Or: Wilhelm II was the Kaiser who made Prussia synonymous with the military State (whereas his predecessors, all of them Freddie and Willies, were liberal and patrons of the arts) and who took Germany into the Great War." What of Frederick the Great's father, Frederick William I, whose contributions to the state of Prussia primarily consisted of increasing the overall efficiency and discipline of his military? Or: "Germans are known to love uniforms, but they seem to prefer to be naked." Furthermore, I can understand why Ben Donald created the character of "Manny Heimway", the supposedly Californian psychobabble-travel-agent, but he did not need to depict him as such a ridiculous figure, especially at the end of the book when he "reveals" himself as a German. While working through the book, I was reminded time and time again that this book was written by a Brit for Brits. In his acknowledgements, Ben Donald even thanks his agent for persuading him that no one in Britain would ever buy a 'straight' travel book about Germany. However, Germans who buy "Springtime for Germany" will not be so thankful. If they are interested in what native-English-speakers think of Germany, they should look elsewhere.

2 von 2 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A disappointment  
Von Francine McKenna - Bella  
Online German Culture Editor  
I read the entire book in the hope that somehow it would eventually begin to live up to its hype, but that did not happen. A great deal of research has gone into the contents which cover a wide range of topics, however the book is not well written and is a mass of clichés. It is a waste of a good idea and sadly reading it was just a bit of a waste of precious time. Hopefully one day someone will write a fun book about modern Germany which is not only easy to read but accurate, informative and interesting, and not simply vaguely patronising and rather shallow. This however is not that book.

13 von 20 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Vorsprung durch widerlegte Vorurteile  
Von R. Müller  
Kaum zu glauben: Eine Homage an Deutschland durch einen Briten!  
Ein vom Massentourismus frustrierter Engländer gewinnt dank eines fiktiven "Reisetherapeuten" in verschiedenen deutschen Regionen zu sich selbst. Teilweise so euphorisch geschrieben, das man an "Verarschung" glauben könnte. Ansonsten aber ein sehr unterhaltsames Buch, das uns Deutsche und unsere Lebensart aus den verschiedensten Blickwinkeln beleuchtet. Insgesamt sehr gut recherchiert, auch wenn manches nicht direkt nachvollziehbar ist, konnte ich doch das ein oder andere mir völlig Neue erfahren. Bis auf ein paar Längen ist das Buch gut zu lesen und sehr humorvoll und selbstironisch geschrieben. Vom Stil und Vokabular allerdings recht anspruchsvoll, mit 9 Jahren Schulenglisch stößt man doch einige Male an seine Grenzen. Ich habe daran etwa doppelt solange wie an einem vergleichbaren deutschen Buch gelesen. Nevertheless: courage to gap! Insgesamt eine lohnende Lektüre und sehr gute Sprachbung!

Kurzbeschreibung  
With no apparent sense of humour and their excessive speed when securing sunloungers, the German people and their country have had a terrible reputation among the British since time immemorial (or 1914). So, going where very few travel-writers and holidaymakers have gone before, Ben Donald has visited Germany in order to overturn stereotypes and, at the same time, fall back in love with travel. From the massed ranks on the nudist beaches of Germany's north coast (they have a reputation for liking uniform, but they'd much rather be naked), via intimate encounters in the steam-rooms of Baden-Baden and the brothels of Hamburg (where he makes his excuses and leaves), to the rite of passage that is wearing Lederhosen to the Oktoberfest (which takes place in September), the author has put his body and his dignity on the line to get beneath the skin of this most maligned of countries. He even goes to see a German stand-up comedian. In - where else? - England. And what emerges is a Germany that will surprise many who thought they knew the country and its people; an eye-opener in other words - especially those nudist beaches.

Pressestimmen  
Surprising and informative (INDEPENDENT)  
A consistently humorous account. By relinquishing his dignity, he rediscovers his love for travel, and has his world-weariness blown away. (TRAVELLER)  
Werbetext  
A witty and eye-opening trip round much misunderstood Germany and the German people in search of wanderlust - contains nudity