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Von Nicholas Rinaldi


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THE JUKEBOX QUEEN OF MALTA



NICHOLAS M. RINALDI

A novel by the author of *Bridge Fall Down*

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Von Nicholas Rinaldi : Jukebox Queen Of Malta: A Novel (English Edition) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Jukebox Queen Of Malta: A Novel (English Edition):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. war and local colorVon JohnRinaldi's novel is a WW II story set on Malta. I am not especially into local color, and war stories generally bore me to death. But I loved this book. The Malta depicted here is a genuinely intriguing exotic locale, and its depiction of the courage of its inhabitants in a very dangerous situation rings very true. Rinaldi has a real gift for

characterization and a real eye for eccentric behavior--the action sometimes seems surreal, and yet based in the most concrete observation. The novel is funny and moving without ever condescending to its characters or their situation in the manner of so much local color. The Fox1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A Maltese Opinion Von Caroline Zammit Being a Maltese myself I was more interested to find out about the portrayal of Malta and the Maltese by Rinaldi...and I must say I was impressed. This book is so well researched that it actually includes newspaper cuttings of the time (some of the shops advertised at that time still stand today!). His description of the hardship endured by the Maltese during the Second World War is absolutely spot-on without being over-dramatic or too romantic. His characters are so real, the plot so clever I could not put the book down.0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A loving companion to CATCH-22 Von Ein Kunde I was puzzled by the reviewer who felt this was tougher to read than CATCH-22. How so?! CATCH-22 jumps back and forth in time; this book is chronologically straightforward. This one also has less characters. Oh well...Comparisons between this book and CATCH-22 are inevitable but they are certainly not identical. JUKEBOX QUEEN is much more of a love story, as well as a progressive embodiment of the isle of Malta itself. Malta indeed becomes an important character. Gentle humor and some priceless lines turns of phrases, with some VERY subtle character shadings such as Rocco Raven's relationship with his father; also the examining of life under fire. A very enjoyable read, and kudos to author Rinaldi for sticking to his guns with a terrific ending.

Kurzbeschreibung The Jukebox Queen of Malta is an exquisite and enchanting novel of love and war set on an island perilously balanced between what is real and what is not. It's 1942 and Rocco Raven, an intrepid auto mechanic turned corporal from Brooklyn, has arrived in Malta, a Mediterranean island of Neolithic caves, Copper Age temples, and fortresses. The island is under siege, full of smoke and rubble, caught in the magnesium glare of German and Italian bombs. But nothing is as it seems on Malta. Rocco's living quarters are a brothel; his commanding officer has a genius for turning the war's misfortunes into personal profit; and the Maltese people, astonishingly, testify to the resiliency of the human spirit. When Rocco meets the beautiful and ethereal Melita, who delivers the jukeboxes her cousin builds out of shattered debris, they are drawn to each other by an immediate passion. And, it is their full-blown affair that at once liberates and imprisons Rocco on the island. In this mesmerizing novel, music and bombs, war and romance, the jukebox and the gun exist in arresting counterpoint in a story that is a profound and deeply moving exploration of the redemptive powers of love..de In the annals of great literature, Malta's one potential claim to fame is that it might have been the location of Calypso's island in The Odyssey; apart from that, this tiny, windswept island midway between Italy and Libya makes itself scarce on the fictional front. But Nicholas Rinaldi brings it front and center in his remarkable second novel, The Jukebox Queen of Malta, and if his descriptions of the place leave you cold, his characters won't. Set during the early years of World War II, the story begins with the arrival of American soldier Rocco Raven, late of Brooklyn, during an air raid. While running from an attacking Messerschmitt, Raven is rescued by Jack Fingerly, a shadowy character who may--or may not--be an Army intelligence officer. To Rocco, a car mechanic in civilian life with a taste for Melville, Nietzsche, and Edgar Allan Poe, nothing about Malta makes sense--except his feelings for Melita Azzard, the eponymous heroine whom he meets during one of the incessant bombings that punctuate life on the island: There was a freedom to the way she moved, a confidence and self-assurance. She paused to look up as yet another Stuka swept by, this one trailing a plume of black smoke from its fuselage. Then she looked back, over her shoulder, and saw him coming along half a block behind her. Though the romance between Rocco and Melita is at the heart of the novel, Rinaldi has more than wartime love on his mind. His island is a marvelous place populated by unhappy pilots who get promoted every time they're shot down; repairmen who have turned jukeboxes into a wartime industry; old men who dream of a "Greater Malta" composed of an annexed Italy ("Sicily we don't want, it's too full of thugs and mafiosi. Rome we give to the pope, but the rest of Italy is ours"); and ordinary people who carry on their quotidian lives in the midst of not-so-quotidian carnage. There's a dreamy, disturbing quality to this novel, as though Catch-22 and Alice in Wonderland met and married. Rocco blames it on the island: "Malta was doing this--everything shifting, turning, uncertain"; the reader, however, knows better. This jewel of a novel owes everything to Nicholas Rinaldi's tilted imagination and considerable prose talents. --Alix Wilber Pressestimmen "Under the heat and the hammering of bombs, Rinaldi paints the essence of the Second World War in exciting miniature" (David Hughes Mail on Sunday) "Much to enjoy...Rinaldi has tremendous fun evoking the rich cultural pudding that was Malta in 1942, its weird combination of superstition, fatalism and grafted-on anglophilia, of ricotta and stiff upper lip" (Patrick Gale Daily Telegraph) "Funny, romantic, disturbing...A marvellous tapestry of war...Moving and satisfying" (The New York Times) "A beguiling, romantic story in an illuminating and surprising setting" (Joseph Heller)