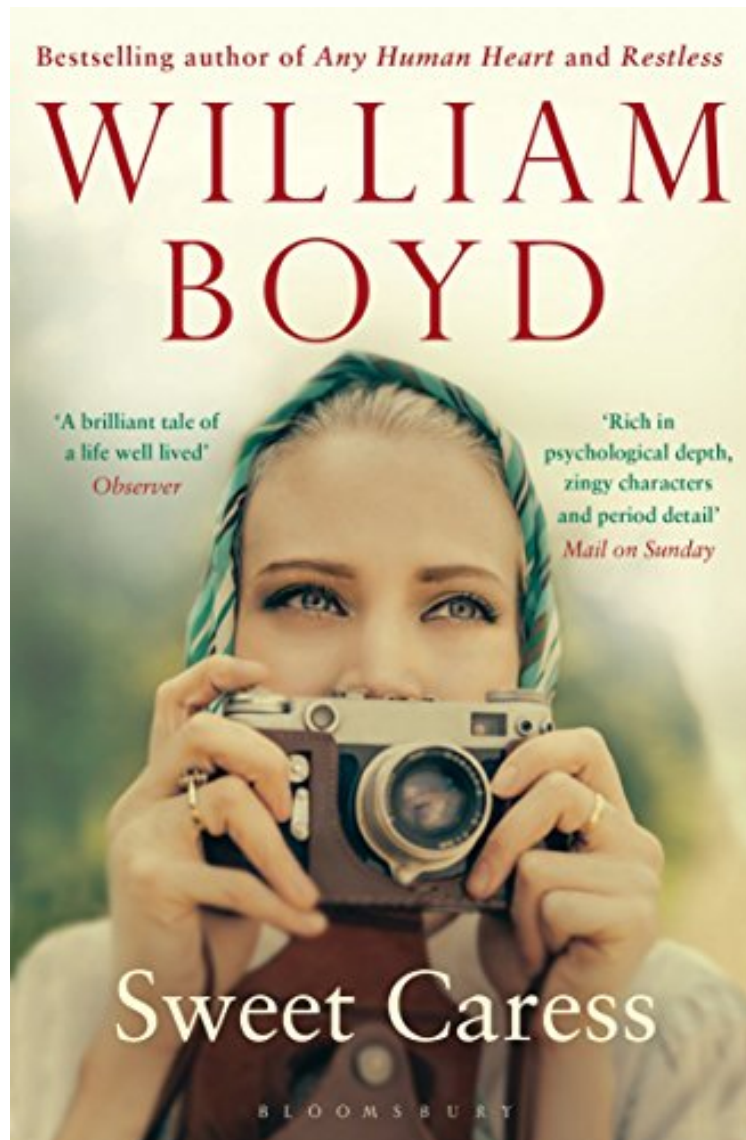


[Free download] Sweet Caress: The Many Lives of Amory Clay

Sweet Caress: The Many Lives of Amory Clay

Von William Boyd

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Von William Boyd : Sweet Caress: The Many Lives of Amory Clay before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Sweet Caress: The Many Lives of Amory Clay:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen3 von 3 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. 2-way cameraVon Secret Spi'Sweet Caress' is the story of a life lived in the first eight decades of the 20th century by photographer Amory Clay, who I would describe, using her Uncle Greville's 'Four Adjectives' parlour game, as intelligent, modern, individual and adventurous. The character brings to mind someone like Lee Miller, who would

have been a contemporary. The main strength of the story for me was Amory herself - she was someone I would have loved to have gone out for a drink with - and there are drink opportunities a-plenty in this novel ('I remember how we used to drink in those days...'). Amory is refreshingly intelligent and well-educated, and William Boyd, in writing her, is not afraid to use words that I'm sure had a lot of people, like me, reaching for the dictionary - 'bibulous', 'refulgent' and 'anodyne' were a few I noted. Amory has a wonderful sharp sense of humour, and I enjoyed reading about someone complex, who had a difficult childhood, yet wasn't continually casting herself into the role of a victim. The story covers themes stretching from the question of self-determination vs. fate, to the effects of war on personality and life. I liked the way the story progressed almost like a series of 2-way snapshots, giving us both the photographer's eye and her soul. Photos, after all, 'pull off the magic trick of stopping time.' On the photos, I would advise against reading this as a Kindle/ebook as the photos are a key part. I was intrigued by them - were they real, from the different eras (and if so, where did Boyd find them?) or are they staged - or indeed, a mix? Throughout the story, as it progresses from 1920s Home Counties to Weimar Republic Berlin, to New York in the 30s, Blackshirt riots in London, the 2nd World War in France, and right up to 1960s Vietnam and California, there's a clever mingling of real people and events with fiction. It's done so well that it's difficult to tell which characters are real, which are the author's imagination, and which are a composite of the two (Uncle Greville takes on a very Cecil Beaton-esque aura at the beginning of the story.) A few points I wasn't so taken with - the penis portraits have been mentioned by other reviewers and I was relieved when Amory stopped these with later lovers. The title is just odd, and if I'd been the publisher, I would have changed it, particularly the subtitle 'The Many Lives of Amory Clay' which makes the story sound like *Life after Life*, *Versions of Us* or something of that ilk. I had a few question marks hanging over Amory's relationship with her mother, which didn't really get as much of an airing as I would have liked. It would have been good to have known more about Peggy/Dido, too. One thing that niggled me: I had always assumed that the 'Am' in 'Amory' was pronounced as in 'ham' or, indeed, 'camera', but Amory's father's nicknames for her suggested it was pronounced 'Ame.' Definitely one I'd recommend, especially if you enjoy stories set in the last century, and appreciate authors who make you wonder what life is all about.

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. The photographer, her men, her wars Von Alfred J. Kwak Love William Boyds talent to write engaging, perfectly-plotted novels, often spanning decades and getting all the details, the atmosphere, colours and shapes of things, right. Here, he presents a pseudo-(auto-)biography of Amory Clay, an early female professional photographer (1908-77), who worked in the UK, US, Germany, Mexico, liberated France Germany and Vietnam. Throughout, she stays the inquisitive young daughter of a man damaged for life by WW I, wondering about what war and true love feels like. WB describes Amory's early, professional and love life chronologically along with flashbacks from her 1977 diary. Was she as iconic as Martha Gellhorn, a real-life war correspondent, also born in 1908? Or as versatile and famous as Paul Theroux's fictional Maude Coffin Pratt in his 1978 novel *Picture Palace*? The polite answer is hardly, because a number of key pictures she took were confiscated or destroyed along with her camera. Also, Amory is remorseful about some pictures she could and should have taken. The quality of many pictures reproduced in this novel is rather poor, their provenance unclear, perhaps selected from albums of snapshots bought at car-boot sales? William Boyds ability to write from a female perspective and thus colouring viewpoints on love and war, is astounding. He did so too in *Brazzaville Beach* and two novels I have not read yet. The amount of imagination and energy he invests in dressing up a complicated story and getting all the details right is awesome, comparable to colleagues such as Annie Proulx and Anne Tyler. Great psychological portrait of a lovely, decisive and headstrong woman.

0 von 3 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. up to his usual high standard Von SuckBlow a great book. Just as expected from William Boyd...if only he was more prolific. I have the same problem with words - needed to write 6 more..

Produktbeschreibung THE TOP TEN SUNDAY TIMES BESTSELLER Amory's first memory is of her father doing a handstand. She has memories of him returning on leave during the First World War. But his absences, both actual and emotional, are what she chiefly remembers. It is her photographer uncle Greville who supplies the emotional bond she needs, and, when he gives her a camera and some rudimentary lessons in photography, unleashes a passion that will irrevocably shape her future. A spell at boarding school ends abruptly and Amory begins an apprenticeship with Greville in London, living in his flat in Kensington, earning two pounds a week photographing socialites for fashionable magazines. But Amory is hungry for more and her search for life, love and artistic expression will take her to the demi monde of Berlin of the late 1920s, to New York of the 1930s, to the Blackshirt riots in London and to France in the Second World War where she becomes one of the first women war photographers. Her desire for experience will lead Amory to further wars, to lovers, husbands and children as she continues to pursue her dreams and battle her demons. In this enthralling story of a life fully lived, William Boyd has created a sweeping panorama of some of the most defining moments of modern history, told through the camera lens of one unforgettable woman, Amory Clay. It is his greatest achievement to date.