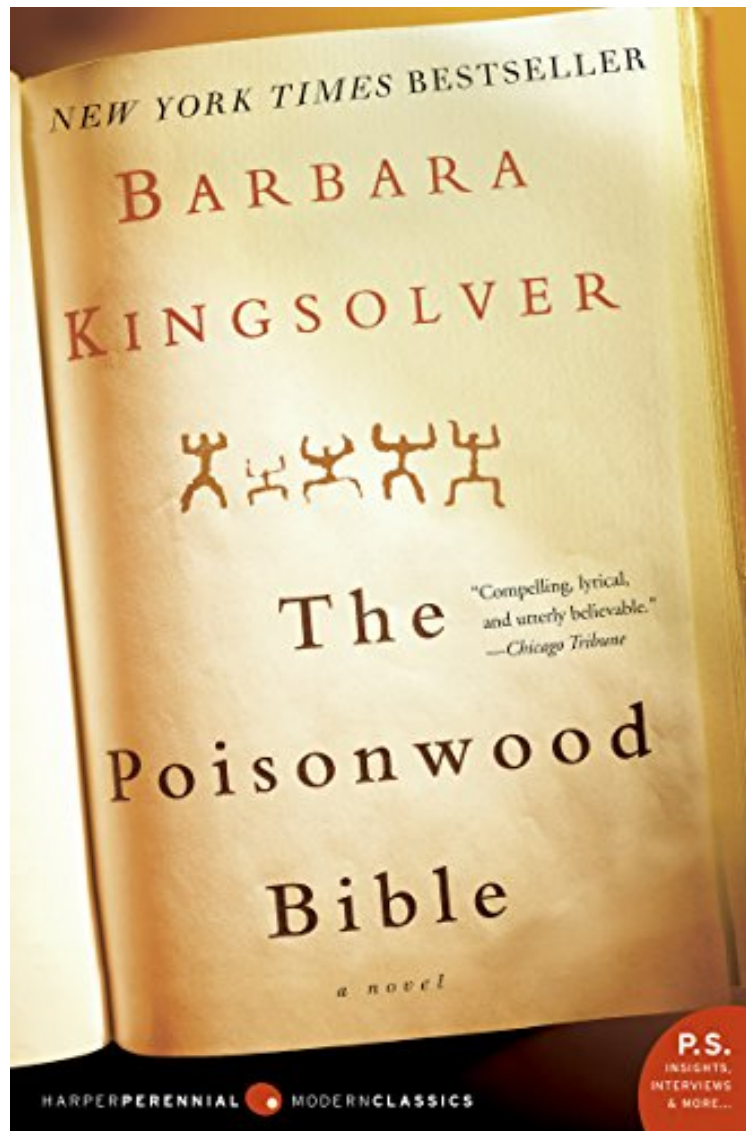


(Get free) The Poisonwood Bible: A Novel

The Poisonwood Bible: A Novel

Von Barbara Kingsolver

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Von Barbara Kingsolver : The Poisonwood Bible: A Novel before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Poisonwood Bible: A Novel:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. beautifulVon CustomerBeautiful book, I loved reading it and I bought a few as presents for friends who all loved reading it too.0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. NO ANTIDOTE NEEDED FOR POISONWOOD BIBLEVon Michael M.This is the first book I have read by Barbara Kingsolver and, like many other readers, became an immediate fan. I love to read books that take me places where I've never been before and probably

will never get to in my lifetime. In *Poisonwood Bible*, the location is the Belgian Congo and is set in a time when the people of the Congo are seeking independence from Belgium. The novel covers a span of almost 40 years following each of the characters' lives, thoughts, up and downs, and finally their discovery of self and their strengths. Nathan Price, a missionary, has been sent to convert the heathens in the Congo and brings his wife and four daughters along on his mission. They move from Georgia to the Congo and the scene in which they are packing what they'll need while there is nothing short of a comedic routine. Just picture leaving "junior league" Georgia -- destination "the jungle". I keep remembering the scene where they are told to pack very little so they decide to layer their clothing in order to be able to bring more attire than they could fit in their suitcases. One of the daughters is layered about 5 deep so you can just imagine how hot she is upon her arrival in the Congo. Kingsolver's descriptions of the heat, destitution, disease, insects and overall political unrest are unparalleled. The plight of the mother Orleanna and her four daughters is told through their own voices chapter by chapter. This is a writing style that I particularly enjoy. Since no voice is given to the father, the reader is left to dislike him intensely as he is portrayed as a religious fanatic as well as a domineering and tyrannical husband. The correlation between the African slaves and the obedient wife who becomes a slave to her callous husband's ideologies is duly noted. There is so much depth to this book that you will find yourself writing down quotes from the book from time to time. While it's sometimes hard to keep a reader's interest going in a book of this magnitude, Kingsolver does it masterfully. Having known nothing of the author prior to this reading, it was obvious throughout that she was making a political statement. I was glad that my eyes were opened to the travesty that exists in this other part of the world. If I have one complaint about the book, it is in the author's note where she is acknowledging individuals for their help and refers to Mumia-Abu-Jamal and states "he read and commented on the manuscript from prison; I'm grateful for his intelligence and courage." She obviously didn't add that he is on death row, convicted of killing a Philadelphia policeman some years ago. This one sentence clouded my ultimate enjoyment of the book before it even started as I can picture the widow and children that this cop left behind. Politics aside, it is a masterful work by a talented and gifted author. 0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Emotionally Stirring Novel Von LibrarianMII had just finished Tom Wolfe's masterpiece, "A Man in Full", and wanted to read something that wouldn't be too big a letdown. I was therefore thrilled to find myself immersed in this emotionally gratifying, wonderfully written novel by Kingsolver. Although the author wears her politics on her sleeve, the tone doesn't become overly preachy and it prompted me to do further research on the history of the Congo. I love novels that teach as well as entertain. Missionaries don't fare particularly well, which may irritate some readers, but those that share the view that it takes a certain arrogance to tell a people that their centuries-old way of worship is wrong will applaud that sentiment here. An emotional journey.

Kurzbeschreibung The *Poisonwood Bible* is a story told by the wife and four daughters of Nathan Price, a fierce, evangelical Baptist who takes his family and mission to the Belgian Congo in 1959. They carry with them everything they believe they will need from home, but soon find that all of it from garden seeds to Scripture is calamitously transformed on African soil. What follows is a suspenseful epic of one family's tragic undoing and remarkable reconstruction over the course of three decades in postcolonial Africa. The novel is set against one of the most dramatic political chronicles of the twentieth century: the Congo's fight for independence from Belgium, the murder of its first elected prime minister, the CIA coup to install his replacement, and the insidious progress of a world economic order that robs the fledgling African nation of its autonomy. Against this backdrop, Orleanna Price reconstructs the story of her evangelist husband's part in the Western assault on Africa, a tale indelibly darkened by her own losses and unanswerable questions about her own culpability. Also narrating the story, by turns, are her four daughters: the self-centered, teenaged Rachel; shrewd adolescent twins Leah and Adah; and Ruth May, a prescient five-year-old. These sharply observant girls, who arrive in the Congo with racial preconceptions forged in 1950s Georgia, will be marked in surprisingly different ways by their father's intractable mission, and by Africa itself. Ultimately each must strike her own separate path to salvation. Their passionately intertwined stories become a compelling exploration of moral risk and personal responsibility. Dancing between the dark comedy of human failings and the breathtaking possibilities of human hope, *The Poisonwood Bible* possesses all that has distinguished Barbara Kingsolver's previous work, and extends this beloved writer's vision to an entirely new level. Taking its place alongside the classic works of postcolonial literature, this ambitious novel establishes Kingsolver as one of the most thoughtful and daring of modern writers. Dieser Titel ist in englischer Sprache. Wie jeder Leser von *The Mosquito Coast* wei, nehmen Männer, die bei der Verfolgung einer Idee ihre Familien in die entlegensten Winkel der Erde schleppen, hufig ein bses Ende. Der Leser, der dagegen mit *At Play in the Fields of the Lord* oder *Kalimantan* vertraut ist, wei, dass in dem Moment, da ein Missionar die literarische Bühne betritt, die Hlle los ist. Wenn also Barbara Kingsolver in *The Poisonwood Bible* den Missionar Nathan Price zusammen mit seiner Frau und seinen vier Töchtern nach Afrika schickt, können Sie sicher sein, dass sie dort nicht gerade ihr Heil finden werden. Wir schreiben das Jahr 1959, und der Ort des Geschehens ist Belgisch-Kongo. Nathan, ein Baptistenprediger, ist gekommen, um in einem abgelegenen Dorf, das nur auf dem

Luftweg zu erreichen ist, das Wort Gottes zu verkünden. Es wäre geradezu untertrieben, ihn und seine Familie als gänzlich unvorbereitet zu bezeichnen. "Wir kamen aus Bethlehem, Georgia, um Euch Betty-Crocker-Kuchenbackmischungen in den Dschungel zu bringen", sagt Leah, eine von Nathans vier Töchtern. Es dauert natürlich nicht lange, bis sie feststellen, dass die enorme Luftfeuchtigkeit die Backmischungen unbrauchbar gemacht hat, ihre Kleidung völlig ungeeignet ist und sie mitten in politische Unruhen hineingeraten sind, in denen die Kongolesen ihren Wunsch nach Unabhängigkeit von Belgien zum Ausdruck bringen. Zusätzlich zu giftigen Schlangen, gefährlichen Tieren und der feindlichen Einstellung der Dorfbewohner gegenüber Nathans feuriger "Alles-oder-nichts"-Version des Christentums gibt es auch noch Rebellen im Dschungel, und die Gefahr eines Krieges schwebt in der Luft. Kann es überhaupt noch schlimmer werden? Das kann es, und das tut es auch. Der erste Teil von *The Poisonwood Bible* handelt von Nathans unnachgiebiger, tyrannischer Persönlichkeit und deren Effekt auf seine Familie und das Dorf, in das sie gekommen sind. Parallel zur Steigerung der politischen Instabilität wächst auch die Feindseligkeit des örtlichen Medizinmannes gegenüber der Familie, und beides scheint etwa in der Mitte des Romans aufeinander zu prallen. Von diesem Moment an wird die Familie in alle Richtungen verstreut, und die Geschichte verfolgt das Schicksal jedes Einzelnen über einen Zeitraum von mehr als dreißig Jahren. *The Poisonwood Bible* dürfte Barbara Kingsolvers bisher ehrgeizigstes Werk sein und offenbart sowohl ihre großen Stärken als auch ihre Schwächen. Als Nathan Prices Frau und vier Töchter in abwechselnden Kapiteln ihre Geschichten erzählen, gelingt es Kingsolver meisterhaft, ihre Stimmen zu differenzieren. Manchmal jedoch können sie auch wehtun: Die Neigung der jugendlichen Rachel, präzise Malapropismen zu benutzen, ist besonders nervend (Studenten benehmen z.B. ihre französischen "Kongregationen"). Problematischer ist jedoch die Angewohnheit von Kingsolver, ihre politischen Ansichten offen zur Schau zu tragen. Das fällt besonders in der zweiten Hälfte des Buches auf, in der sie ihre Gestalten als Sprachrohr benutzt, um die komplizierte und tragische Geschichte des Belgisch-Kongo zu erläutern. Trotz dieser Mängel verleihen Kingsolvers realistische, dreidimensionale Charaktere dem Roman *The Poisonwood Bible* eine bezwingende Qualität, besonders in der ersten Hälfte, in der Nathan Price noch im Mittelpunkt des Geschehens steht. Und in ihrer Behandlung des Schauplatzes Afrikas und der Afrikaner ist sie in Höchstform. Sie demonstriert die Scharfsinnigkeit, das moralische Engagement und den lyrischen Erzählstil, die ihre vorherigen Romane so erfolgreich gemacht haben. --Alix Wilbur.co.uk

As any reader of *The Mosquito Coast* knows, men who drag their families to far-off climes in pursuit of an Idea seldom come to any good, while those familiar with *At Play in the Fields of the Lord* or *Kalimantan* understand that the minute a missionary sets foot on the fictional stage, all hell is about to break loose. So when Barbara Kingsolver sends missionary Nathan Price along with his wife and four daughters off to Africa in *The Poisonwood Bible*, you can be sure that salvation is the one thing they're not likely to find. The year is 1959 and the place is the Belgian Congo. Nathan, a Baptist preacher, has come to spread the Word in a remote village reachable only by airplane. To say that he and his family are woefully unprepared would be an understatement: "We came from Bethlehem, Georgia, bearing Betty Crocker cake mixes into the jungle," says Leah, one of Nathan's four daughters. But of course it isn't long before they discover that the tremendous humidity has rendered the mixes unusable, their clothes are unsuitable and they've arrived in the middle of political upheaval as the Congolese seek to wrest independence from Belgium. In addition to poisonous snakes, dangerous animals, and the hostility of the villagers to Nathan's fiery take-no-prisoners brand of Christianity, there are also rebels in the jungle and the threat of war in the air. Could things get any worse? In fact they can and they do. The first part of *The Poisonwood Bible* revolves around Nathan's intransigent, bullying personality and his effect on both his family and on the village they have come to. As political instability grows in the Congo, so does the local witch doctor's animus toward the Prices, and both seem to converge with tragic consequences about halfway through the novel. From that point on, the family is dispersed and the novel follows each member's fortunes across a span of more than 30 years. *The Poisonwood Bible* is arguably Barbara Kingsolver's most ambitious work, and it reveals both her great strengths and her weaknesses. As Nathan Price's wife and four daughters tell their story in alternating chapters, Kingsolver does a good job of differentiating the voices. But at times they can grate--teenaged Rachel's tendency towards precious malapropisms is particularly annoying (students practice their "French congregations"; Nathan's refusal to take his family home is a "tapestry of justice"). More problematic is Kingsolver's tendency to wear her politics on her sleeve; this is particularly evident in the second half of the novel, in which she uses her characters as mouthpieces to explicate the complicated and tragic history of the Belgian Congo. Despite these weaknesses, Kingsolver's fully realised, three-dimensional characters make *The Poisonwood Bible* compelling, especially in the first half when Nathan Price is still at the centre of the action. And in her treatment of Africa and the Africans she is at her best, exhibiting the acute perception, moral engagement and lyrical prose that has made her previous novels so successful. --Alix Wilbur, .com