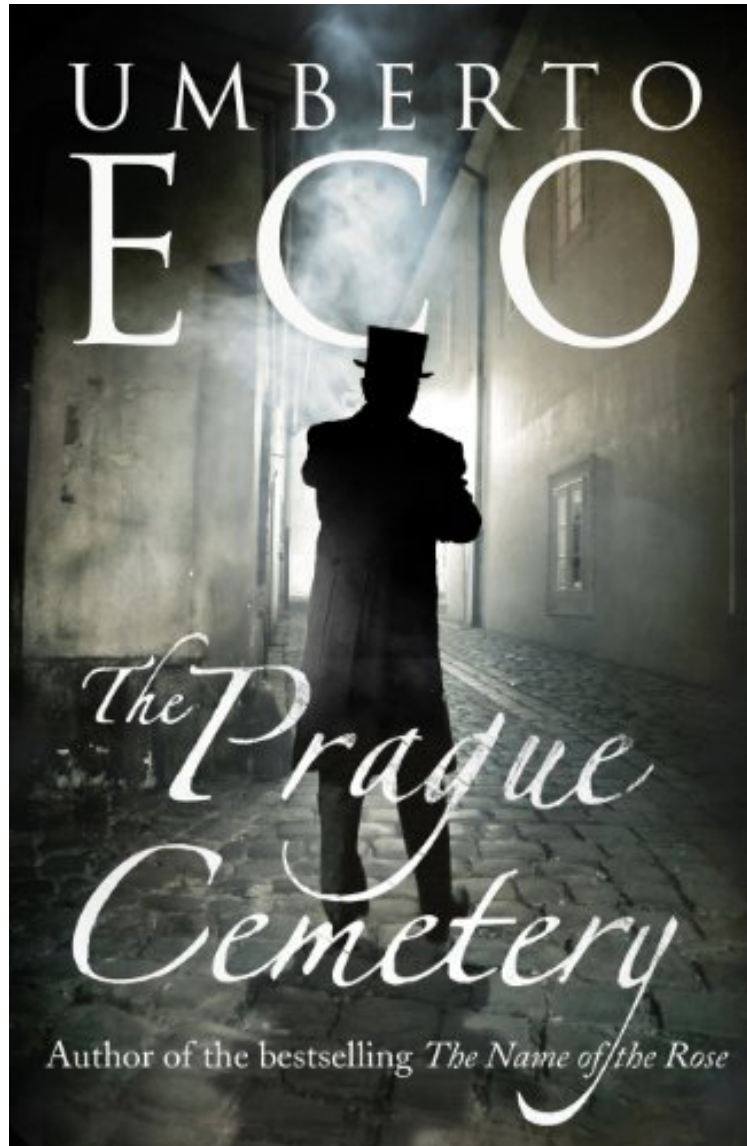


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The Prague Cemetery

Von Umberto Eco

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Von Umberto Eco : The Prague Cemetery before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Prague Cemetery:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen2 von 2 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A Brilliant Satirical Invention in which Prejudice and Manipulation Are Revealed to Their Naked RootsVon Donald Mitchell"If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you." -- John 15:18 (NKJV)At first, I thought I must be reading a book written by a reincarnated Voltaire who had majored in 19th century European

history. As someone who did major in 19th century European history in college, I was fascinated to see how many real historical threads masterful novelist Umberto Eco tied together to one fictional character. In his cupidity, antihero Simone Simonini is a perfect reflection of the world he describes in terms of cynically fanning the flames of hate to advance some momentary interest or another. The opening pages are simply stunning in terms of their self-indictment of how little prejudice is usually based on. From there, I'm sure you'll enjoy reading how many forged documents and "informational" campaigns were based on obscure novels that had been forgotten by many people. I almost fell out of my chair laughing in places while being reminded how many such deceptions were taken from the very same sources. This book is so rich in history, perspective, and psychology that it could easily become the subject for a doctoral dissertation. I don't remember another modern novel with nearly this much intellectual content . . . put together in such an entertaining way. I agree that it's destined to be considered a masterpiece. I hope that many young readers will have opportunities to read and to discuss its content in class. Such an investigation will help inoculate them against much of the cynical posturing that today's politicians and opinion makers engage in . . . for their own benefit and for the harm of most everyone else. In that sense, the book will seem at some levels as if it were also describing the 21st century. Just marvelous! Don't miss it!

2 von 2 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Brilliant, but not thrilling

Von Alfred J. Kwak This complex novel is about conspiracies, populism and plagiarism in 19th century Europe. Its first chapter was an assault on this reader's feelings, a sour fruit to eat and stomach. Its main character is racist and psychotic Simone Simonino (SS) from Turin, later from Paris, a dubious notary, an expert forger of documents, occasional killer and devious spy. SS's diary from 1897, going back to the 1860's and before, forms the backbone of this novel. Brilliant? Umberto Eco (UE) provides a raw portrait of Paris and France in the late 19th century. And gives insights into popular sentiments, whereby few nationalities or entities escaped popular distrust and hatred. Popular hate targets included Communists, Freemasons, Jesuits, and especially Jews. Eco's thesis in this novel is that all 19th century accusations and campaigns against these groups were concocted and managed somehow by one man, the plagiarizing SS, who made brilliant use of existing material. Almost everything in this novel is proven by historical facts. The author provides plenty of names, book titles and etchings (from his own vast collection) as evidence. Almost, because SS and his alter ego Abb Dalla Piccola are Eco's own creations. So is the mysterious storyteller, who cuts short and speeds up SS's diary throughout the novel. But not thrilling? In Paris, Simonini, once a minor character in Garibaldi's quest for Italian unity, turns out to be a psychotic and paranoid man focused on cash and good food. He abhors women but is not attracted to men either. The novel relates in great detail countless intrigues, conflicts and wars nobody today is interested in. The psychotic dimension is confusing, slows the novel down and should cost the novel stars. Readers may tire from too much repetition of abundant evidence of prejudice. The novel reads like a dissertation and makes readers struggle: it is also too long to enjoy. Conclusion Eco became world famous with "The Name of the Rose", a medieval tale, filmed with Sean Connery in the lead. This book is a brilliant reconstruction about how the infamous "Protocols of the Elders of Zion", which inspired Adolf Hitler to instigate the "Endlösung", was perhaps collated and written. Perhaps this novel is also Eco's response to growing feelings of popular anger and the growing appeal of populist leaders and parties in contemporary Europe, their appeal fed by spin doctors and strategists as vile as Simonini. A difficult, tiresome, but morally sound novel.

10 von 12 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Frankreich, Juden, Freimaurer und die Weltrevolution. Ein bemerkenswerter neuer Roman von Umberto Eco

Von Der Buchvorleser Der italienische Semiotik-Professor Umberto Eco ist ein profunder Mittelalterexperte, gefeierter Romanautor, Liebhaber alter Bücher und noch viel, viel mehr. In seinem neuen Roman "Der Friedhof in Prag" führt Eco seine geneigten Leser in das Paris der Zeit rund um die Pariser Kommune. Der Stoff ist beraus komplex und Eco bedient sich zur Rekrutierung seines Handlungspersonals in der realen Historie. Fast alle seiner Romanfiguren gab es wirklich und die Dinge im Buch haben sich vielfach so zugetragen, wie von Umberto Eco geschildert. Simone Simonini, Ecos einzige Erfindung, ist Italiener, lebt in Paris und ist von ganzem Herzen Antisemit. Mit seiner gespaltenen Persönlichkeit, die dem Leser alsbald zu Bewusstsein dringt, erlebt er die Kämpfe der Kommunisten, beschreibt die Affäre um den jüdischen Hauptmann Dreyfuss, wandelt zwischen den Geheimdiensten und bringt zahlreiche Beweise für die große Weltverschwörung. Oder ist das alles nicht real? Lebt Simonini vielleicht in seiner eigenen Welt, vermischt Realität und Traum, Wahn und das wahre Leben? Mit geschliffenen Monologen und spannenden Zwiegesprächen peitscht Umberto Eco die Spannung voran und erbaut in seinem formidablen Roman eine eigene Welt, die neben der Geschichte Bestand hat und in der es ebenso wie im richtigen Leben um den ständigen Kampf um Gut und Böse, um die Wahrheit, welche Religion nun die Richtige ist und um die Sehnsucht der Menschen nach Freiheit geht. Geschickt in der Vermischung von historischen Begebenheiten und Hirngespinnsten begibt sich der Roman auf das Terrain populärwissenschaftlicher Wissensvermittlung und belletristisch anspruchsvoller Unterhaltung. Was will man mehr? Ein großer Roman und ein Meisterwerk der Komposition!

Kurzbeschreibung Nineteenth-century Europe abounds with conspiracy both ghastly and mysterious. Jesuits plot against Freemasons. Italian priests are strangled with their own intestines. French criminals plan bombings by day and

celebrate black masses by night. Every nation has its own secret service, perpetrating forgeries, plots, and massacres. But what if, behind all of these conspiracies, lies just one man? Pressestimmen "[This] magnificent new novel... marks a return to the heady mixture of absorbing ideas and down-and-dirty historical detail that made *The Name of the Rose* such an international bestseller in the 1980's" (Adam Lively Sunday Times) "This is a great mystery novel about paranoia, prejudice and forgery... We gain access to a world of city streets, strange anecdotes, gourmet menus, and conspiratorial minds... Eco's best novel since *The Name of the Rose*" (Independent) "A smartly entertaining fin-de-siècle romp" (Independent) "An extremely readable narrative of betrayal, terrorism, murder and gourmandising... The great trick Eco pulls off here is to combine the most chilling of ideas - the origin of a hoax that led to genocide - with, elsewhere in the novel, an often funny lightness of touch... In other hands, this novel could have been grim. But you end up feeling, despite all the darkness, that Eco is one of literature's great optimists" (Sinclair McKay Daily Telegraph) "Imagine Dan Brown adorned with a PhD: that's Umberto Eco" (Observer) Pressestimmen "[Eco's] latest takes that longtime thriller darling, the conspiracy theory, and turns it into something grander... Sold to 40 countries and said to be controversial; a speed-read with smarts." --"Library Journal, ""My Picks" "A whirlwind tour of conspiracy and political intrigue...this dark tale is delightfully embellished with sophisticated and playful commentary on, among other things, Freud, metafiction, and the challenges of historiography." --"Booklist" "Intriguing, hilarious....a tale by a master." --"Publishers Weekly "boxed review "He's got a humdinger in this new high-level whodunit...a perplexing, multilayered, attention-holding mystery." --"Kirkus", starred