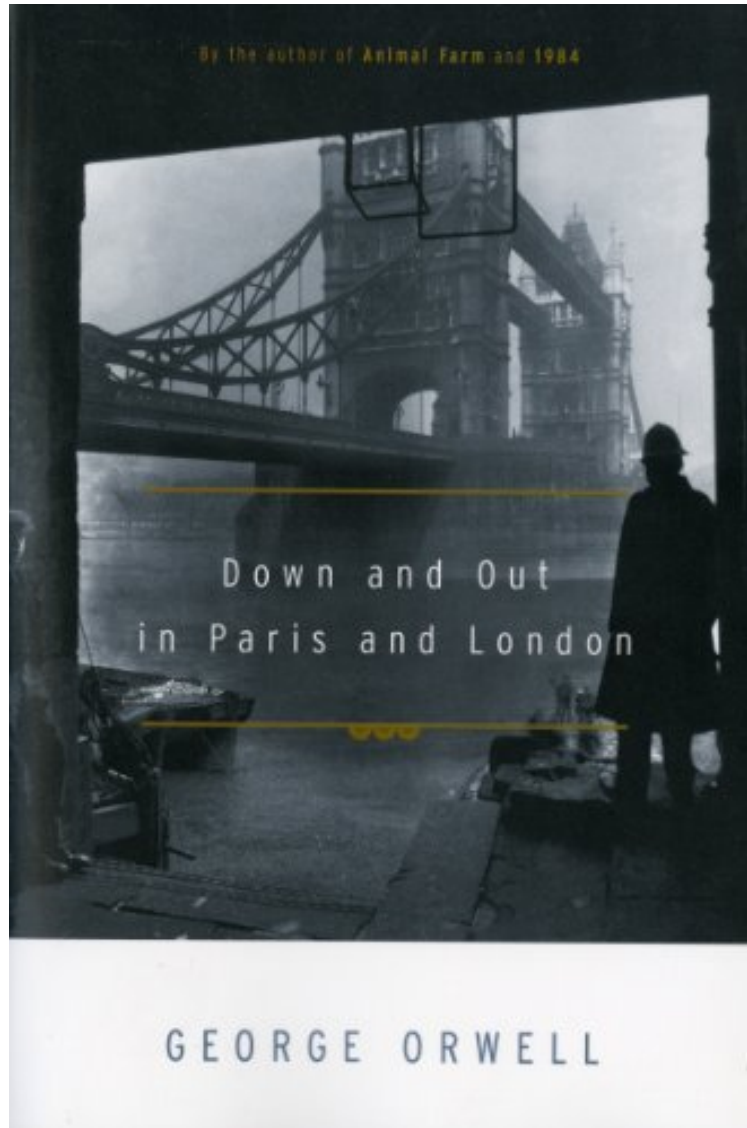


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Down and Out in Paris and London

Von George Orwell

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Von George Orwell : Down and Out in Paris and London before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Down and Out in Paris and London:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen9 von 9 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Elendstourismus in EuropaVon Lanthanium"Down and Out in Paris and London" ist eine Sozial-Dokumentation von George Orwell, der autobiographisch ber eine Periode seines Lebens schrieb, in der er unter prekren finanziellen Umstnden in Paris und London und Umgebung lebte. In Paris fand Orwell, nachdem er eine Weile so abgebrannt war, dass er sogar immer wieder tagelang nichts zu essen kaufen konnte, durch Hilfe eines russischen Freundes eine

schlecht bezahlte Stelle als Hilfskraft in einem Hotel. Ungeheuer lebendig und interessant sind Orwells Schildungen der Arbeit und Hierarchie hinter den trgerischen Kulissen eines Nobelhotels sowie seiner spteren Ttigkeit als Mitarbeiter in einer Restaurant-Kche, wo unvorstellbare hygienische Missstnde herrschten, die in der damaligen Zeit anscheinend in Paris sehr weit verbreitet waren. Man denkt, es knnte kaum schlimmer kommen, aber dann reiste Orwell nach London, wo er die dortigen sozialen Zustnde aus der Sicht des Landstreichers beschrieb, zu dem er zeitweise wurde. Er lebte unter Obdachlosen, Landstreichern und Bettlern (Betteln war in England damals offiziell bei Gefngnisstrafe verboten, um die Kleinigkeit des berlebens fr die verarmten Menschen noch etwas herausfordernder zu machen!) und beschreibt die trostlosen Zustnde in verschiedenen gefngnisartigen "spikes" (bernachtungseinrichtungen fr Arme), Obdachlosenheimen, Heilsarmee-Unterknften, kirchlichen Hilfseinrichtungen und Arbeitshusern. Trotz aller Sozialkritik ist das Ganze so gut beobachtet und ohne Bitterkeit sehr spannend beschrieben, dass einem dieses Buch aus dem Jahr 1933 auch heute noch in seinen Bann zieht. Ein beeindruckender und teilweise sehr beklemmender Dokumentarbericht ber erniedrigende Armut im 20. Jahrhundert und Menschen am Rande des Abgrunds, den der Autor des bekannteren Romans "Nineteen-eightyfour" der Welt hinterlassen hat. Das Buch sollte meiner Meinung nach zur Pflicht-Lektre in hheren Schulen gehren, denn es ist einerseits in leicht verstndlichem Englisch geschrieben, andererseits schrfte es den Blick des Lesers fr soziale Ungerechtigkeiten und Menschen, denen es nicht so gut geht wie ihm selbst. 2 von 2 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Background to the writer and the age Von Owen Hughes What happens when you are living in a foreign city and your money runs out? It seems obvious that George Orwell the writer and George Orwell the down-and-out are two different people. After all, one had considerably more resources than the other, including a somewhat wider knowledge of society than your average clochard. However, regardless of whether it was for the sake of a writer's experience, George Orwell did survive the gruelling experience of working near the bottom of the Parisian hotel/restaurant trade as a plongeur. Most of us would have caught the first train home with funds stolen or otherwise procured in a jiffy. Naturally, working down in the airless depths of a hotel meant meeting many odd bods that were otherwise out of Orwell's orbit and this is part of the delight of this excursion into the subterranean world of the servant classes. The book was written in the 30s, at a time when European society was about to undergo the transformations caused by its second bloodletting in three decades. Orwell takes us back to a period when men sweated freely at their work, in almost impossible conditions, and considered themselves to be among those who were better off! It makes one wonder today that road gangs (the workers were called "navvies" in Britain) used to do all the work by hand, which is now done by enormous machines with a little group of workers standing around looking, waiting to tidy up. Backbreaking work is a thing of the past for most of us, but it lingers on in the memory of our grandfathers and comes to life in Orwell's fine text about a forgotten lifestyle of yesteryear. His further excursion into the shelters for the homeless in England is also of interest. There was a way of life, of people always on the move, occasionally finding seasonal work, (represented by the hobo in America and the swaggy in Australia), which was well known to many people but was, even then, coming to an end. Interesting portraits of an age from a writer who led a far from sheltered life himself. 1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Powerful and Insightful Von Ein Kunde An incredibly (sometimes almost unbearably) vivid account of Orwell's life among the poorest people in Europe. It examines lowest-rung working class in Paris, and the conditions faced by the homeless in France and England in the early 1930's. Orwell's descriptive gifts are breathtaking, so that I often felt I was right at his side in the abysmal hotel kitchen where he slaved, or the squalid, unlit "shelter" where he was confined as a derelict. A great eye-opener about the hidden side of life in those days, and written without any sentimentality or condescension. Orwell sees through the cant and sanctimony of the middle class, the clergy, and supposed Socialist reformers. One thing that bothered me was some bigotry (for instance, against Jews), which came as a surprise, given Orwell's reputation for tolerance. There also was some of the British jingoism that was so distasteful in his essays about India. And I was disappointed that the plight of impoverished women was largely ignored. Such a focus would've made the men's lives look like a picnic. All in all, however, a moving and enlightening read, even sixty-five years down the line.

Kurzbeschreibung This unusual fictional account, in good part autobiographical, narrates without self-pity and often with humor the adventures of a penniless British writer among the down-and-out of two great cities. In the tales of both cities we learn some sobering Orwellian truths about poverty and society.