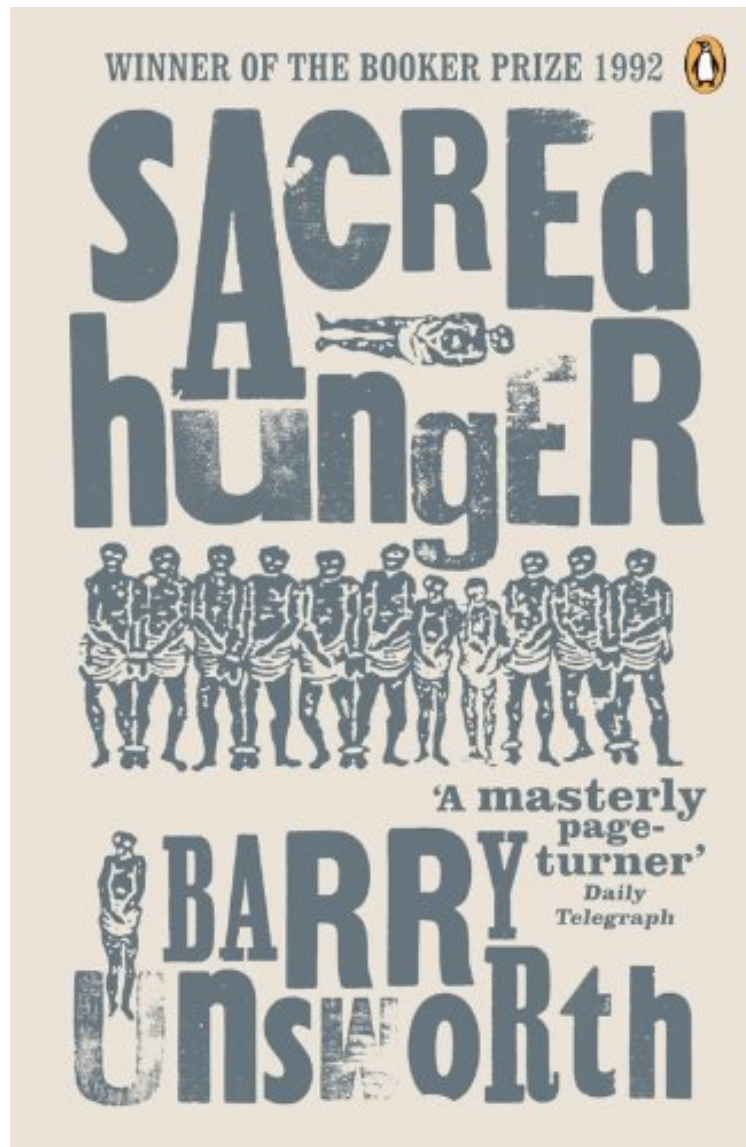


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## Sacred Hunger

Von Barry Unsworth

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**Von Barry Unsworth : Sacred Hunger** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Sacred Hunger:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Fflawed but worth readingVon Ein KundeI read this because it won, with The English Patient, the Booker prize for 1992. Some parts were boring. All the detail about practicing a play seemed pointless to me, and at the end the pidgin English really turned me off because there was so much of it. I was curious about the end, and decided that the end was neither

unsatisfactory nor totally satisfactory. I feel my time could have been better spent. 0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. This book is finest literature clothed in a compelling story Von Ein Kunde The New York Times said Sacred Hunger is a book to be read slowly and savored. For once, they were absolutely right. It is like Napoleon Brandy or fine wine - a few "sips," pages, at a time is a pleasure to be savored. Like all fine literature, this book has a plot that is a backdrop for a constant truth of human nature. The plot, set in mid 18-century England and, later, the West Indies, concerns a fortune made by a father, who, at the book's beginning, is now on the verge of losing it. His hope for saving that fortune is a slave ship, whose fortunes are not nearly as bright as the owner hopes. After the owner's death, his son strives to rebuild the family's name and fortune. Perhaps this may seem to reveal too much of the plot, though the plot is truly only the backdrop for the Sacred Hunger felt by all societies since time began. This is a rare book. Mr. Unsworth weaves his backdrop so completely that the reader easily becomes one with it, and, in doing so, eventually understands the "Sacred Hunger." 0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Hefty tale, but too rich for some Von Barbara Ann Galler Our Seattle-area book club members were mixed in their praise for Sacred Hunger. Some count it has one of the top five books of our club's five year history; others note the merits of the book, but are turned off by what they feel are unnecessary details throughout the story. We all agree that Unsworth has an astute eye for capturing what motivates his characters and for re-creating the spirit of the mid-18th century slave trade and class system of England. We also agree that Sacred Hunger is a unique mixture of an epic sea-faring tale and a moral examination of a society dominated by greed at any humanitarinan cost. Whether it's freedom (however ephemeral), revenge, or greed, the reader cannot mistake each character's moments of pain or contentment made possible by the desolate clarity of Unsworth's prose. Give it a try. Suffer the play scenes. The themes and characters of Sacred Hunger will not disapoint you.

Kurzbeschreibung WINNER OF THE 1992 BOOKER PRIZE 'Gripping . . . SACRED HUNGER covers a period between 1752 and 1765 . . . it concerns the entangled and conflicted fortunes of two cousins: Erasmus Kemp, the son of a Lancashire merchant, and Matthew Paris, a scholar and surgeon just released from prison for "denying Holy Writ" . . . the Liverpool Merchant is the vessel on which the whole of the novel hinges, and it carries the reader deep into the history of man's iniquitous greed . . . AS REGARDS ITS DRAMATIC BREADTH AND ENERGY, NO RECENT DOMESTIC NOVEL HAS COME WITHIN A MILE OF IT' - Anthony Quinn in the Independent From Kirkus sA masterful, thoroughly engrossing tale from acclaimed historical novelist Unsworth (Pascali's Island, 1980; Stone Virgin, 1986)--about the British slave trade in the mid-18th century and a shipboard mutiny from which arose a community based on racial equality. Through the perspectives of Erasmus Kemp, son of the shipowner and an obsessive, insensitive youth; and Matthew Paris--his cousin, a doctor (and ship's physician) recently imprisoned for publishing his seditious views in favor of evolution--Unsworth contrasts imagery of a genteel life in England with an increasingly brutal, barbaric existence under the command of the maniacal Captain Thurso. As slaves are collected from traders along the African coast, the fortunes of the owner decline precipitously, with his suicide and the ruin of Erasmus's fanciful plans of empire-building and grandeur through a good marriage the result. Becalmed, the ship's human cargo begins to sicken and die, and an increasingly vexed Thurso opts to alleviate matters by throwing ailing slaves overboard--an act spurring Paris and the crew to kill him. After landing on the remote coast of Florida, ex-slaves and sailors live in freedom for 12 years--inspired by the utopian ideals of an itinerant artist picked up in Africa--until they are captured by soldiers under Erasmus, who, consumed by the same sacred hunger for wealth that made chattel of human beings, has spared no effort to hunt down the cousin whom he blames for the loss of his dream. Intense in its elaboration of two vastly different visions of destiny and cause-and-effect, more steeped in history than Charles Johnson's Middle Passage: a riveting, outstanding addition to an already impressive oeuvre. -- Copyright 1992, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved. From Library Journal With its graphic depiction of the 18th-century slave trade and a society driven by the desire to maximize profit regardless of the human cost, this new novel by the author of Pascali's Island (Penguin, 1988) offers a dark view of human nature clearly relevant to our own time. William Kemp hopes to recoup his losses in cotton speculation by entering the Triangular Trade. As ship's doctor, his nephew Matthew experiences firsthand the horrors of shipboard life, ultimately leading a revolt that lands the crew and remaining slaves on the southeastern coast of Florida. Here they try to establish "a paradise place," but events force Matthew to conclude that "nothing a man suffers will prevent him from inflicting suffering on others. Indeed, it will teach him the way." Though the pace drags at times, taken as a whole this is a masterful effort that delivers an important message. Highly recommended for both public and academic libraries.- David W. Henderson, Eckerd Coll. Lib., St. Petersburg, Fla. Copyright 1992 Reed Business Information, Inc.