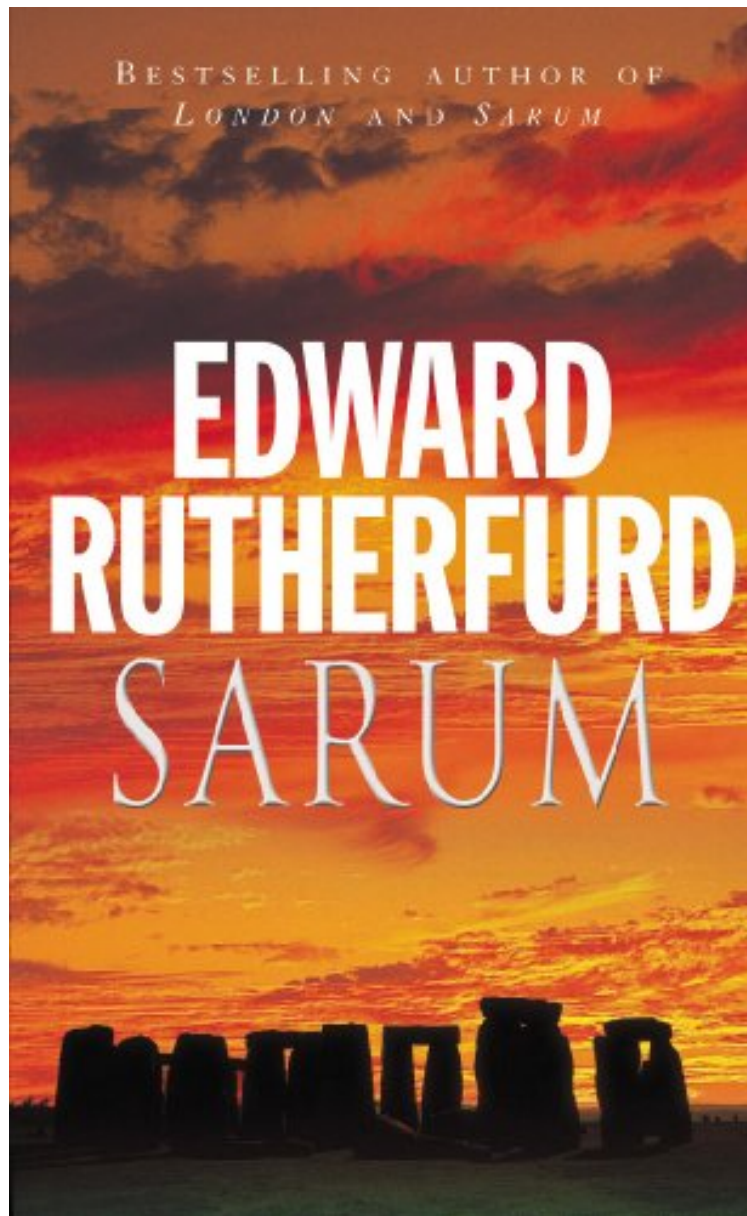


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Sarum

Von Edward Rutherfurd
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Von Edward Rutherfurd : Sarum before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time,
and all praised Sarum:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen2 von 2 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Bringing
history to lifeVon Ein KundeRutherfurd tells history in a way that people can relate to. He uses individual characters

and then plots their ups and downs as they struggle through life's many twists and turns. He refines this by creating sub plots that follow the characters and their descendants through time. The result is that the reader is gradually drawn in and the book becomes compelling and even potentially addictive. Even though you know the various characters die (by definition they are long gone) you are desperate to know what happens to them. The section about the plague for example is tragic, and the reader can easily find themselves hoping that the spread of the disease is contained. Reading Sarum has rekindled my love of history and I am now well into other historical novels. Rutherford's style quite simply brings history to life.5 von 6 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A Sense of History Von Peter Berlin The novel covers close to 10.000 years of human history, taking place in and around the the area of Sarum or Salisbury. The author starts out with the first humans coming to this area just when England was separated from the continent. The authors focuses on several families residing there and joins their histories, which is the history of Sarum, by certain characteristics that link the generations over the span of time. The individual members of these families obviously don't know anything about the generations preceding them. The reader can put together out of these pieces an interesting picture of humankind - indeed some things in huimankind never change. It makes for very good reading and provides you with an awful lot of historical information. The novel is hard to put down once you got into it. Highly recommendable.0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Yes, I know. A long review. But it was a long book! Von Jim Lunsford The Salisbury cathedral and Stonehenge. Ancient, worn, mysterious structures only hinting at their former dominance and glory. Yet despite the age of these monuments, they have withstood the withering destructive forces of a stormy history, and are standing as tall and proud as ever.OK, excuse me for overdoing it with my rhetoric. But I may as well be talking about the country of England itself. Clearly Rutherford meant for the cathedral and the megaliths on Salisbury Plain to symbolize the durability and determination of the British people to survive the ravages of time. Of course, the reader also needs a little of that durability and determination to finish the book as it tends to drag on a little too much, especially in later chapters. But how can you fault a book for this when it dares to single-handedly tackle thousands of years of the nation's history.I think Rutherford's main theme is that heredity is something we have to struggle mightily to escape from, but perhaps it is so because we choose not to escape. A character living in the shadow of the glacier in Britain has descendants who have the same character traits in the modern age. One character in particular was an Ice Age thief and would-be rapist of another man's wife. Throughout the following millennia, his descendants continue his legacy, expanding it to cover the stealing of lands and even claims to nobility of their neighbors, all the way into the final chapter. I know many people may have a problem with this idea. Many feel that we are our own individual selves and not slaves to our ancestry, and I agree. But why then do we obsess over our heritage, our family trees? People cherish their link to the past. Now more than ever, people are exploring their heritage in order to define themselves, embracing the ways of their ancestors even though they probably can't even point out what country they were from on a map. Accordingly, it seems that who our forefathers were is very important in shaping who we are. We model ourselves after our parents, who modeled themselves after their parents, who modeled themselves after theirs, and so on. So I can easily see how we in the modern age would be just like our ancestors, especially when we try so hard to be as much like them as we can. Compassion, fear, hatred, good and evil can indeed all be handed down from father to son. While these character traits continuing on for thousand of years may seem far-fetched, I understand the point Rutherford is trying to make. We all live today with the consequences of yesterday actions.I also enjoyed the author's ironic treatment of his characters. People whose ancestors were noble Saxon thanes or mighty Norman knights end up nothing more than modest commoners, and cunning peasants use manipulation and crime along with the help of good luck to ensure that their spawn will be the lords, earls and other nobility of tomorrow (why am I reminded of Joe Kennedy, Sr. ?).Rutherford suggests that we must be on constant guard, because crooks are waiting in the shadows to get their hands on everything we have. Everyone who buys things from sweepstakes companies or sends money to televangelists should be forced to read this book. As time marches onward, many things in our lives are fleeting: our fame, social status, money, even our dignity. In the long run, all that will remain constant is our true nature. The nature of the English nation, the author implies, is to embrace the old ways in order to know how to handle the future. Good advice, I think. A positive way to use history. As for those of you who dislike Rutherford's assumption that we can't change who we are, I will just say that I believe he doesn't really suggest this. I think his lesson actually is that we can break from the bonds of our past and become something different, but not too many people are actually willing to do so. If you still disagree that people end up allowing an ancient past they had nothing to do with to shape their behavior today, what's that daily slaughter in Yugoslavia all about?

Kurzbeschreibung The towering story of five families through 100 centuries of turmoil, tyranny, passion and prosperity from Edward Rutherford, the author of London, Russka and New York. In a novel of extraordinary richness the whole sweep of British civilisation unfolds through the story of one place, Salisbury, from beyond recorded time to the present day. The landscape - as old as time itself - shapes the destinies of the five families. The Wilsons and the

Shockleys, locked in a cycle of revenge and rivalry for more than 400 years. The Masons, who pour their inspired love of stone into the creation of Stonehenge and Salisbury Cathedral. The Porters, descended from a young Roman soldier in exile. And the aristocratic Norman Godefrois, who will fall to the very bottom of the social ladder before their fortunes revive. From Library Journal A first novel, Rutherford's sweeping saga of the area surrounding Stonehenge and Salisbury, England, covers 10,000 years and includes many generations of five families. Each family has one or more characteristic types who appear in successive centuries: the round-headed balding man who is good with his hands; the blue-eyed blonde woman who insists on having her independence; the dark, narrow-faced fisher of river waters and secrets. Their fortunes rise and fall both economically and politically, but the land triumphs over the passage of time and the ravages of humans. Rutherford has told the story of the land he was born in and has told it well. The verbosity of a Michener is missing, but all the other elements are present, from geology and archaeology to a rich story of human life. Highly recommended. BOMC alternate. Andrea Lee Shuey, Dallas P.L. Copyright 1987 Reed Business Information, Inc. From School Library Journal YA This sprawling novel follows the fortunes and losses of five families from the Stone Age through the present time. Each of the families can be identified through genetic characteristics handed down through the ages not simply physical characteristics, but attitudes and morals, too. There is plenty of action to keep readers motivated to finish the book. Rutherford has a style and energy all his own that should appeal to young readers of historical fiction. This book will be a hit with young adults who have the time and attention for longer works. Mary A. Williams, Harris County Public Library Copyright 1988 Reed Business Information, Inc.