



The Clown (The Essential Heinrich Böll)

By Heinrich Böll

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Acclaimed entertainer Hans Schneir collapses when his beloved Marie leaves him because he won't marry her within the Catholic Church. The desertion triggers a searing re-examination of his life—the loss of his sister during the war, the demands of his millionaire father and the hypocrisies of his mother, who first fought to “save” Germany from the Jews, then worked for “reconciliation” afterwards.

Heinrich Böll's gripping consideration of how to overcome guilt and live up to idealism—how to find something to believe in—gives stirring evidence of why he was such an unwelcome presence in post-War German consciousness . . . and why he was such a necessary one.

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The Clown (The Essential Heinrich Böll) By Heinrich Böll Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #779578 in Books
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- 256 pages

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Editorial Review

From Library Journal

These mark the fifth and sixth Böll titles reprinted this year-impressive. First published in 1965, *The Clown* is typical Böll and is ripe with guilt and fear in its Nazi and post-Nazi Germany setting. Vennewitz's translation was dubbed "admirably smooth" (LJ 2/1/65). *Katharina Blum* (1975) was described by LJ's reviewer as a "powerful image of innocence betrayed, of measureless evil oozing quietly out from regulated, unimpeachable convention" (LJ 4/15/75). Two solid titles.

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Review

THE ESSENTIAL HEINRICH BÖLL

"Melville House has now reissued handsome paperbacks of three of Böll's most important novels, and in each we find the 1972 Nobel Prize winner, with a humanist's skepticism and tenderness, refusing to allow his fellow Germans to forgive themselves and move on.... [In *The Clown*] the abstractions of existentialism are manifested in vivid flesh-and-blood characters."

—Sam Sacks, *The Wall Street Journal*

"Böll is an expert marksman: the arrows are sharp, the feathers smooth, the targets numerous."

—*The New York Times*

"Moving . . . highly charged . . . filled with gentleness, high comic spirits, and human sympathy."

—*Christian Science Monitor*

"His work reaches the highest level of creative originality and stylistic perfection."

—*The Daily Telegraph*

"The renewal of German literature, to which Heinrich Böll's achievements witness, and of which they are a significant part, is not an experiment with form. Instead it is a rebirth out of annihilation, a resurrection, a culture which, ravaged by icy nights and condemned to extinction, sends up new shoots, blossoms, and matures to the joy and benefit of us all."

—The Nobel Prize Committee

"A man of deep feeling and intelligence, speaking in a strongly contemporary voice, [Böll] recorded in his early stories the way it felt to come home to a destroyed country. The tone was neither angry, ironic nor surreal. On the contrary, these stories gave us the slow-moving thoughtfulness of a narrator in pain, walking about on a lunar landscape, knowing he must make sense of things more quickly than he is able to do."

—Vivian Gornick, *The New York Times*

Language Notes

Text: English (translation)

Original Language: German

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Mark Feaster:

Why don't make it to become your habit? Right now, try to prepare your time to do the important take action, like looking for your favorite e-book and reading a book. Beside you can solve your problem; you can add your knowledge by the guide entitled The Clown (The Essential Heinrich Boll). Try to the actual book The Clown (The Essential Heinrich Boll) as your pal. It means that it can for being your friend when you really feel alone and beside that course make you smarter than in the past. Yeah, it is very fortuned for you personally. The book makes you much more confidence because you can know almost everything by the book. So , we should make new experience as well as knowledge with this book.

James Kostka:

As people who live in typically the modest era should be update about what going on or details even knowledge to make these keep up with the era which is always change and move ahead. Some of you maybe may update themselves by examining books. It is a good choice in your case but the problems coming to anyone is you don't know which you should start with. This The Clown (The Essential Heinrich Boll) is our recommendation to cause you to keep up with the world. Why, as this book serves what you want and need in this era.

Francis King:

The Clown (The Essential Heinrich Boll) can be one of your nice books that are good idea. Many of us recommend that straight away because this reserve has good vocabulary that will increase your knowledge in vocab, easy to understand, bit entertaining but still delivering the information. The article writer giving his/her effort to put every word into pleasure arrangement in writing The Clown (The Essential Heinrich Boll) although doesn't forget the main level, giving the reader the hottest as well as based confirm resource details that maybe you can be among it. This great information could drawn you into brand-new stage of crucial pondering.

Carmen Dana:

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