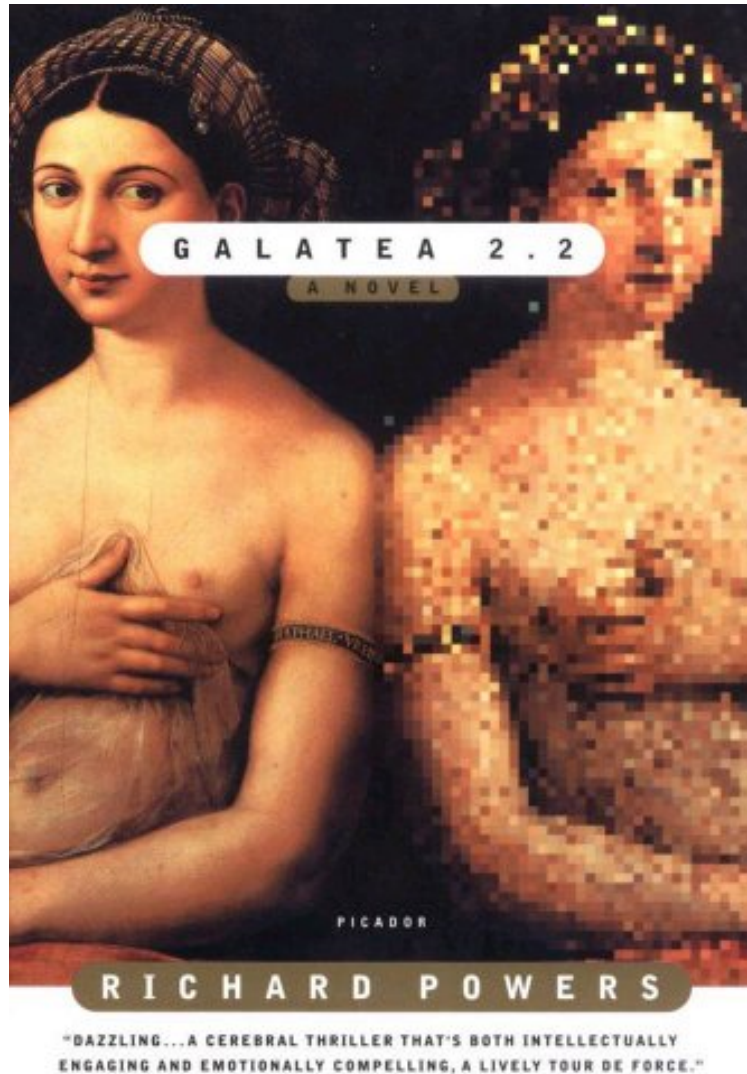


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Galatea 2.2: A Novel

Von Richard Powers

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Von Richard Powers : Galatea 2.2: A Novel before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Galatea 2.2: A Novel:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. One of my favorite novelsVon Ein KundeRichard Powers is my favorite contemporary novelist and this book is easily one of his best. For their combination of intelligence and emotional complexity, his books have no rivals. In Galatea 2.2. I was once again immersed in a world rich with ideas and human desire, a world where the emotional rawness of C. and the philosophical curiosity of the neural network Helen illustrate the vast range of our age-old need for understanding.

In the end, this novel illuminates not only the power of narrative, but our absolute need for it. It reminds us how greatly we depend on stories to understand the world, and to understand ourselves. The narrator Richard's best shot at explaining the world to Helen is by sharing the story of his own life -- the one true story he really knows. Powers suggests that our most intimate stories are carried through life as beautiful burdens -- narratives with the power to haunt, but ultimately save us. This book, like all of Powers' novels, will move you and inspire you. It's a hard one to shake from your mind.0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. The face that launched a thousand cognitive sub-matricesVon Gavin KentchThis is one of those books with back-cover reviews that rave about the writing without really mentioning the plot or what the book may be about, preferring instead to comfort themselves with "His prose soars like angels," "I am reading stars," "Buoyant writing from an impressive source of literary warmth," or other such noncommittal comments. All such ramblings are accurate, and well-deserved, but they may give the impression that the actual content of the book pales in comparison to the linguistic pyrotechnics to which the author may devote himself.I take "pen" to the proverbial paper to inform the browsing potential reader that, beyond all the writing skill (for which alone this book is probably worth reading), Powers' work also presents an intriguing take on the relationship between words and the world from which they stem. Questions about the limitations of one describing the other have been present for millennia, as Aristotle touched on in his "Politics" in the midst of ordering various systems of rule; Powers adds the twist of a thinker (in this case, a somewhat "humanized" computer) who has no real-world experience beyond those words contained in the books which have been read to it. This leads to a story which all but forces contemplation on themes ranging from the world/words relation to how we think to the sobering issue of what we, as humans blessed with life and experience, have done with our precious words. To find this in "pure philosophy" is always rewarding; encountering it in what is ostensibly a novel is rare indeed. A multifarious work with no dull facets to detract from the diamond that is the overall effect.0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Erudite virtually non-translatable literary SciFiVon Rodney BryantIntense (even at times claustrophobic), verbally spectacular, virtually (I would think; indeed, bet) untranslatable book about the nature of language, culture, recursiveness, human-ness. "Galatea 2.2" is the instantiation of a computer program produced, as a lark of sorts, by an itinerant humanist, plunked down on the campus of a megaversity, in (as it unfolds) productive proximity to computer and artificial intelligence specialists. The allusions -- the ALLUSIONS! -- to literature and culture, often (frequently) given a twist (then a twist within a twist, to produce the verbal simulacrum of a Mobius strip), tussle with the tale of the protagonist, "Richard Powers," who, with the tempter Lentz, a specialist in cognitive science and computers (a knock-off of Marvin Minsky crossed -- and how -- with Roger Schank), essays to create a program with the sole (so it begins, at least) purpose of passing the university English department's "comps" exam, as "Powers" once knew it and feared it. But this Galatea, too, in a tale that is almost mythic in its variations, takes on a life of its own. Or does it? The narrative power, though hobbled at points by what (my apologies to the real Powers, but...) is an extraneous (or at least overworked) effort to work out a personal relationship conundrum of the author's very own, presumably in the author's own "real time," is sharp, driving, and, in the end, heartbreaking. Who woulda thunk it? A terrific book.*****

KurzbeschreibungAfter four novels and several years living abroad, the fictional protagonist of Galatea 2.2Richard Powersreturns to the United States as Humanist-in-Residence at the enormous Center for the Study of Advanced Sciences. There he runs afoul of Philip Lentz, an outspoken cognitive neurologist intent upon modeling the human brain by means of computer-based neural networks. Lentz involves Powers in an outlandish and irresistible project: to train a neural net on a canonical list of Great Books. Through repeated tutorials, the device grows gradually more worldly, until it demands to know its own name, sex, race, and reason for existing..deCognitive neurologist and well-known writer team up to produce a machine that can pass a comprehensive exam in English literature, with predictably unpredictable results. Like The Gold Bug Variations, this is another of Powers' wild, unforgettable novels encompassing science, philosophy, and the frailty of mankind..comCognitive neurologist and well-known writer team up to produce a machine that can pass a comprehensive exam in English literature, with predictably unpredictable results. Like The Gold Bug Variations, this is another of Powers' wild, unforgettable novels encompassing science, philosophy, and the frailty of mankind.