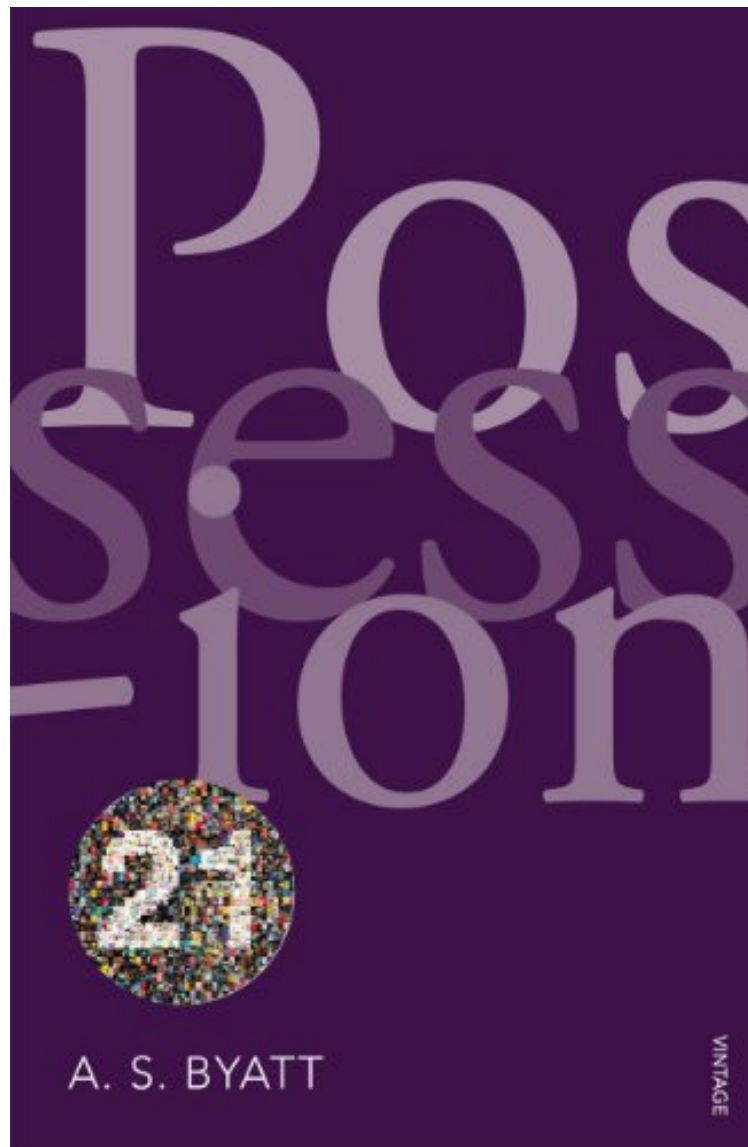


(Library ebook) Possession: A Romance (Vintage 21st Anniv Editions)

Possession: A Romance (Vintage 21st Anniv Editions)

Von A S Byatt

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Von A S Byatt : Possession: A Romance (Vintage 21st Anniv Editions) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Possession: A Romance (Vintage 21st Anniv Editions):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. PossessedVon SteinJI had totally missed this book when it was first published in 1990, even though I lived in the UK then and was reading rather a lot of fiction. I now found it in a second-hand bookshop, and I am glad we finally met. It is 'a romance' (subtitle) in several senses. The present day story is a romantic quest with heroes, villains, and a very

fine and happy ending. And the subplot set in Victorian times is full of poetic passion and romantic love. The language is beautiful and intelligent. And there are some brilliant satirical elements, too. A great pleasure throughout all the 511 pages - which I read in just one week, truly possessed. 10 von 10 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A Love Story That Is and A Romance That Could Have Been Von Ein Kunde Possession, labeled a romance, is certainly that. But it is also much, much more. The book is a tremendous undertaking of style and verve, a romance on two levels, and a bizarre detective story all rolled into one. The main characters of Possession are Roland Michell, a true academic and Maud Bailey, a researcher, but the stars of the book are really the long-dead R.H. Ash and Christabel LaMotte. In Possession, Byatt gives much attention to minor detail. In fact, her detailing is so subtle that many nuances may be missed on a first reading. Byatt's writing is beautiful and filled with simple, descriptive language and gorgeous imagery. The majority of the story is rich in both metaphor and allusion, with the following passage being a prime example: "One night they fell asleep, side by side, on Maud's bed, where they had been sharing a glass of Calvados. He slept curled against her back, a dark comma against her pale elegant phrase." Most of the chapters in Possession begin with a fictitious work by Ash or LaMotte, but Byatt has not only written them well, she has fashioned each so that it is in keeping with the character of its fictitious author. Ash and LaMotte are both of the Romantic period, yet Ash is more open and free than is LaMotte, who writes with obvious rhyme and rhythm. It is this--Byatt's ability to create so many different writing styles for each of her characters and fit them to the character so perfectly, that makes Possession come to life for the reader. Possession is not a straightforward narrative, however. Much of the story is told through the letters of Ash and LaMotte, again, beautifully crafted by Byatt. It is through their letters that we really get to know Ash and LaMotte as well as Roland and Maud. The knowledge gained in the past relationship between Ash and LaMotte allows the present-day relationship between Roland and Maud to come to life. Possession is a story of lost romantic love and, as such, it may seem, at first glance, to be just another trite book on a trite and overly-written subject. Nothing could be further from the truth. Byatt has conferred a freshness of outlook on Possession that makes it unlike any other novel of failed romance and love gone wrong. Roland and Maud are, without a doubt, two quite ordinary people. But Byatt has given them something quite extraordinary to do. These two would-be lovers are actually on a quest, and their lives, as well as their love, seem to mirror and parallel Ash and LaMotte's in more ways than one. But all is certainly not smooth sailing for Roland and Maud. Roland has Val, his live-in lover to deal with and Val, unlike many an "unwanted" lover is not a woman to be summarily dismissed. What really makes Possession sparkle and sets it apart from any other typical romance is the connection Roland and Maud have to the past and to Ash and LaMotte. This adds a mystical, almost surreal, quality to the story that could have so easily turned maudlin in the hands of a writer less talented than Byatt. Byatt, however, intertwines past and present with perfection and keeps the reader spellbound with the suspension of disbelief. A few passages containing expletives seem out of place in this otherwise dazzling novel and really seem beneath the obvious talent and ability of a first-class writer like Byatt. Byatt has titled her novel perfectly. The word, "possession," crops out several times throughout the story: the possession of the stolen letters, the possession of the lovers to each other, the possession of the past to the present. Byatt obviously began working with the motif of possession in mind. While certainly not of the romance genre, Possession contains enough romance to satisfy even the most voracious. The characters are creations of tremendous depth and we find it easy to love them or hate them or pity them, but never dismiss them. The intertwining plots work on many levels and work so well that many readers will often find themselves wondering if the story is purely fiction or based in reality. Finally, the beautiful writing captures and holds the reader's attention and adds to the fantasy that is unfolding. Although some readers might find the many letters and poems contained in this book distracting, they do enrich the story and lend a depth that would definitely be lost had Byatt failed to include them. A finely-crafted novel of parallel lives and parallel loves, Possession is, for the most part, a lyrical look, not at what really was, but what so easily could have been. 1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Intellectually and Emotionally Stimulating Von J. Conrad Guest My dad once told me that there was no such thing as a bad book, only bad readers. That was before I recommended that he read Possession. Granted, my dad's preference was for historical novels, being a retired Marine, but I was disappointed that he was unable to appreciate the beauty of Byatt's story and, more importantly, her prose in Possession. Don't be fooled by the cover, which states that you hold in your hands a romance novel. Possession is indeed a romance novel, but not in the vein of Danielle Steel. Possession is much more than that. Where Steel writes formula romance, Byatt has perhaps created a sub-genre, and one that is far more sophisticated than those romance novels that one finds in airport gift shops. Gorgeously written, it is the story of two academic types turned sleuth, who themselves become romantically involved, and their efforts to piece together the love affair between two poets from the nineteenth century, largely from a number of letters they discover by chance. The prose at times can be difficult, but rewarding nevertheless. A number of love letters are included in the text, and although they are beautifully written, this portion of the novel outstays its welcome; after a time they do little to move the story forward. Still, the end is worth the effort, and although I was surprised by the denouement, others have claimed to see it coming. Winner of the 1990 Booker Prize - the United Kingdom's highest literary award - I recommend Possession to all lovers of good

literature.

Kurzbeschreibung Possession is an exhilarating novel of wit and romance, at once a literary detective novel and a captivating love story. It is the tale of a pair of young scholars investigating the lives of two Victorian poets. Following a trail of letters, journals and poems they uncover a web of passion, deceit and tragedy, and their quest becomes a battle against time..de "Literary critics make natural detectives," says Maud Bailey, heroine of a mystery where the clues lurk in university libraries, old letters, and dusty journals. Together with Roland Michell, a fellow academic and accidental sleuth, Maud discovers a love affair between the two Victorian writers the pair has dedicated their lives to studying: Randolph Ash, a literary great long assumed to be a devoted and faithful husband, and Christabel La Motte, a lesser-known "fairy poetess" and chaste spinster. At first, Roland and Maud's discovery threatens only to alter the direction of their research, but as they unearth the truth about the long-forgotten romance, their involvement becomes increasingly urgent and personal. Desperately concealing their purpose from competing researchers, they embark on a journey that pulls each of them from solitude and loneliness, challenges the most basic assumptions they hold about themselves, and uncovers their unique entitlement to the secret of Ash and La Motte's passion. Winner of the 1990 Booker Prize--the U.K.'s highest literary award--Possession is a gripping and compulsively readable novel. A.S. Byatt exquisitely renders a setting rich in detail and texture. Her lush imagery weaves together the dual worlds that appear throughout the novel--the worlds of the mind and the senses, of male and female, of darkness and light, of truth and imagination--into an enchanted and unforgettable tale of love and intrigue. --Lisa Whipple Pressestimmen "Intelligent, ingenious and humane... Possession bids fair to be looked back upon as one of the most memorable novels of the 1990s" (Times Literary Supplement) "As always, Byatt wields beautiful prose, and the mix of prose and poetry gives the book a sensuality as mysterious as anything in the plot" (Elizabeth Kostova) "A massive, complex story about a literary mystery which turns into an emotional journey of self-discovery... The novel is a triumphant success on every level - as a critique of Victorian poetry, an unbearably moving love story and a satire on the modern 'biography industry'... Possession will be the sensation of the year" (Cosmopolitan) "On academic rivalry and obsession, Byatt is delicious. On the nature of possession - the lover by the beloved, the biography by his subject - she is profound... She is ripening into our best novelist" (Evening Standard)