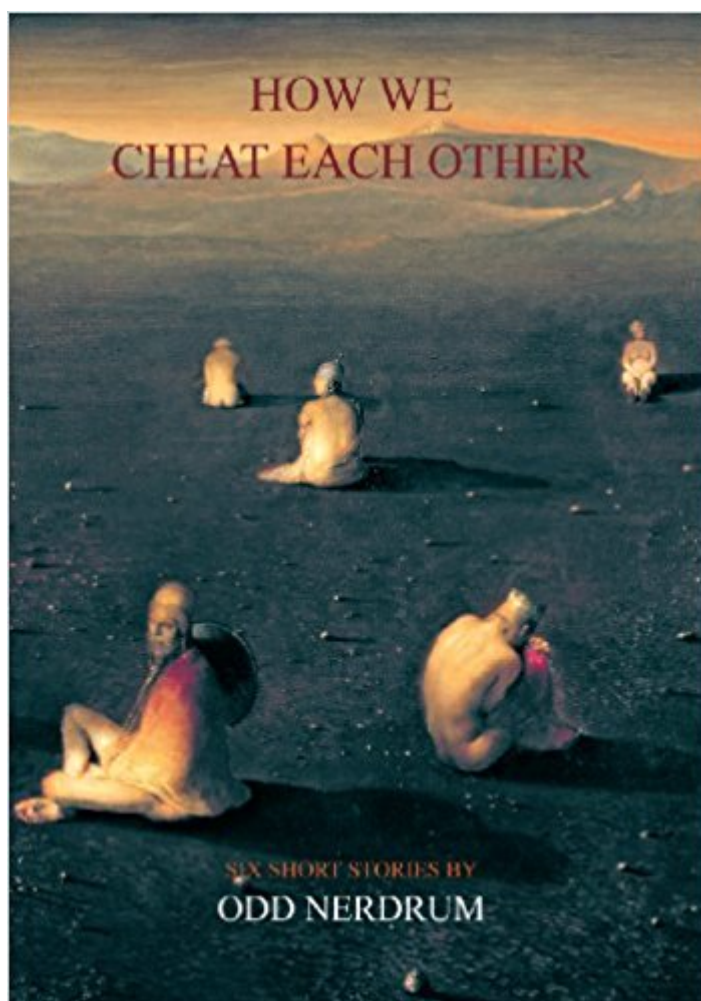


The book was found

Odd Nerdrum: How We Cheat Each Other: Six Short Stories By Odd Nerdrum



Synopsis

How We Cheat Each Other is a textbook on human deceit, as narrated by Odd Nerdrum. It consists of six short stories in dialogue form, drawing on Nerdrum's experiences in Iceland, Sweden, Norway, Russia and Germany, and spanning "The Last Days of Immanuel Kant" in the eighteenth century through to our time, and into the future. The theme of cheating takes various forms: Kant cheats the Dutch painter Haan Van Meegeren who in turn deceives the world with his forgeries; a German writer is cheated by his country after the Second World War; the protagonist of "The Diamond Man" is cheated by a spirit; in "The Sleepwalker" a Swedish painter is continually cheated by his environment; in "Marlowe" a neglected poet cheats the system that had ignored him for years; and the concluding story, "After Armageddon," ends with an explosion of all kinds of cheating against a backdrop of torture and slaughter.

Book Information

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Literature > European

Customer Reviews

We purchased this for our son, a long time admirer of Odd Nerdrum, and also a painter. He finds the book interesting and stimulating.

Poetry :S

Still need to read but got here safely

Odd Nerdrum is an endlessly fascinating artist who has created his own mystical world full of human

angst, netherworld landscapes, and innumerable self portraits that tell us much more about the attitude of this brilliant artist than any book could describe. Unfortunately his ability to weave narratives on canvas is not matched by his talent with the written word. In this overly long book HOW WE CHEAT EACH OTHER he rather clumsily narrates six stories ranging in time frames from the 18th century to the present, representing a swath of countries and cultures including Germany, Norway, Russia, Sweden, and Iceland - all dealing with the topic of cheating, forgery, torture, and all manner of human misbehavior. Some readers may be expecting a book on the order of WG Sebald or Bernard Schlink or even Jos  Saramago, but what appears here is more akin to the darker novels of Cormac McCarthy - but without the finesse of writing of these great artists. The tone of the book, though divided in to 'short stories' is unrelentingly dour and after a fairly brief time the themes wear thin. Better to turn to the books on the visual statements of this artist and leave the stories to your own interpretation of his paintings rather than to the artist's written words. Grady Harp, April 11

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