



 Get Print Book

My Century: A Novel

By Günter Grass



Download



Read Online

My Century: A Novel By Günter Grass

Günter Grass tells us a story for every year of our century. He writes of great events and seemingly trivial occurrences, of technical developments and scientific discoveries, of achievements in culture and sports, of megalomania, of persecution and murder, of war and disasters, and of new beginnings. Although each story has a different narrator, collectively the stories form a complete and linear narrative in which the individual is the focus. As the sequence unfolds, a lively and rich picture emerges, an historical portrait of this millennium in all its grandeur and in all its horror. One hundred stories come full circle to create a novel of our century.



[Download My Century: A Novel ...pdf](#)



[Read Online My Century: A Novel ...pdf](#)

My Century: A Novel

By Günter Grass

My Century: A Novel By Günter Grass

Günter Grass tells us a story for every year of our century. He writes of great events and seemingly trivial occurrences, of technical developments and scientific discoveries, of achievements in culture and sports, of megalomania, of persecution and murder, of war and disasters, and of new beginnings. Although each story has a different narrator, collectively the stories form a complete and linear narrative in which the individual is the focus. As the sequence unfolds, a lively and rich picture emerges, an historical portrait of this millennium in all its grandeur and in all its horror. One hundred stories come full circle to create a novel of our century.

My Century: A Novel By Günter Grass Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #1643392 in Books
- Published on: 1999-12-01
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.50" h x .81" w x 5.51" l, 1.05 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 320 pages

 [Download My Century: A Novel ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online My Century: A Novel ...pdf](#)

Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Perhaps it's fitting that the 1999 winner of the Nobel Prize for literature, Günter Grass, should be the one to see the old millennium out in style. His *My Century* is comprised of 100 short chapters, one for each year of the 20th century, each told by a different narrator. And of course, since Grass is German, the century he refers to is German as well--a fact that could prove a little daunting to readers not familiar with the intricacies of that country's history. "1900," for example, throws us smack in the middle of the Chinese Boxer Rebellion from a German soldier's point of view. "1903" jumps us into the head of a young student who, clad in a new boater, admires the first Zeppelin, buys a copy of Thomas Mann's latest book, *Buddenbrooks*, and attends the launching of the world's largest ship, *Imperator*, among other historical events. "1904" is concerned with a miners' strike and "1906" is all about German-Moroccan foreign relations.

Yet as year succumbs to year and one narrative voice piles on top of the next, *My Century* becomes more than the sum of its parts. And Grass always manages to surprise. The chapters "1914" through "1918," for example, rather than being narrated by the usual suspects--young soldiers in the trenches, worried mothers at home, embittered war widows or shell-shocked veterans--are relayed by a '60s-era young woman who brings two great German chroniclers of the war together. As the now-elderly Erich Maria Remarque (*All Quiet on the Western Front*) and Ernst Jünger (*On the Marble Cliffs*) meet and spar over the course of several meals, their reminiscences of the Great War present two radically different views. Jünger, for example, says: "I can state without compunction: As the years went by, the flame of the prolonged battle produced an increasingly pure and valiant warrior caste..." Remarque's response is to laugh in Jünger's face:

Come on, Jünger! You sound like a country squire. Cannon fodder quaking in oversized boots--that's what they were. Animals. All right, maybe they were beyond fear, but death never left their minds. So what could they do? Play cards, curse, fantasize about spread-eagled women, and wage war--murder on command, that is. Which took some expertise. They discussed the advantages of the shovel over the bayonet: the shovel not only let you thrust below the chin; it gave you a good solid blow, on the diagonal, say, between neck and shoulder, which then cut right down to the chest, while the bayonet tended to get caught between the ribs and you had to go all the way up to the stomach to pull it loose.

It may be Remarque and Jünger talking, but the prose is pure Grass. The years leading up to and including World War II are narrated by a variety of voices: a communist in a forced-labor camp in 1936; a schoolboy "playing" Spanish Civil War with his classmates in 1937. The events of Kristallnacht, November 9, 1938, become inextricably linked with the November 9, 1989, fall of the Berlin Wall, as a German schoolteacher gets in trouble with the Parent-Teacher Association for his "obsession with the past." Indeed, it is the way Grass mixes past and present, the voices of the famous and the ordinary, that lends such power to *My Century*; and by the time he brings the reader up to the last weird and wonderful chapter, his century has become ours as well. --*Alix Wilber*

From Publishers Weekly

Nobel laureate Grass's deft new collection of stories thoroughly and intimately marks the passing of the 20th century. Comprising 100 monologues, each named after a year of the century and spoken by characters who represent a broad spectrum of German society, the work becomes the literary equivalent of a choral symphony. The stories include the reminiscences of ex-Nazis about their activities in 1934; a dead woman's

perspective on Germany after the crumble of the Berlin Wall (1999); a delirious letter by the turn-of-the-century poet Else Lasker-Sch?ler (found by the story's narrator in a used book), in which she imagines herself to be 20 years younger than she is (1901); and the author's descriptions of his beleaguered personal life (1987). Several entries establish some continuity from year to year, while other segments clash brilliantly with each other. The volume progresses less like a narrative than like an argument, each year's oral history advancing the thesis that history and personal identity are inextricably linked. Unlike Grass's earlier politically tinged and more willfully surreal work, this novel is consistently realistic, with only a few exceptions. Although the units are always engaging, some of them are drier than others, based upon abstruse but suggestive information, such as the details of munitions manufacture or obscure battle maneuvers. The effect of the episodic narration is a sort of cacophony, but one that is finally resolved into a complex, multipart harmony. Much like the voices echoing in a train station or airport, this cumulative sound reminds the reader of the rich fabric of humankind's collective existence. Grass (*The Tin Drum*) concludes with the memories of a 103-year-old woman who has been brought back to life by her novelist son for the purposes of his fiction. As she says: "I'm also looking forward to the year 2000. We'll see what comes of it... " (Dec.) FYI: This volume will be published simultaneously around the world. Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc.

From Library Journal

The most recent recipient of the Nobel prize, Grass here offers a collection of stories, which, though not exactly linked, coalesce to form a unified vision of the 20th century. The title's simultaneous aspirations to both sweeping grandeur and a highly individual story are artfully maintained in the text. Each year is represented by a two- or three-page vignette, each told by a different anonymous narrator. The plots of the pieces are small to nonexistent, the sorts of musings and memories one turns over while riding a subway or rummaging through an attic. And, truth be told, they are not always completely engaging when read scattershot or with pauses between chapters. By book's end, however, they amount to a kinetic vision of a city square--unknown people filled with personal preoccupations come together to form a shifting pattern recognized only by the reader endowed with a bird's-eye view. A fine addition to literary fiction collections in both public and academic libraries.

-Eric Bryant, *"Library Journal"*

Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Audrey Stockman:

The reserve untitled *My Century: A Novel* is the e-book that recommended to you to study. You can see the quality of the reserve content that will be shown to anyone. The language that author use to explained their way of doing something is easily to understand. The copy writer was did a lot of research when write the book, therefore the information that they share to your account is absolutely accurate. You also could possibly get the e-book of *My Century: A Novel* from the publisher to make you considerably more enjoy free time.

Gail Tate:

The actual book *My Century: A Novel* has a lot details on it. So when you check out this book you can get a lot of benefit. The book was written by the very famous author. Tom makes some research just before write this book. This specific book very easy to read you can obtain the point easily after reading this book.

Darrell Mayo:

In this age globalization it is important to someone to get information. The information will make you to definitely understand the condition of the world. The condition of the world makes the information easier to share. You can find a lot of recommendations to get information example: internet, newspapers, book, and soon. You will see that now, a lot of publisher that will print many kinds of book. Typically the book that recommended to you personally is My Century: A Novel this guide consist a lot of the information on the condition of this world now. That book was represented how do the world has grown up. The vocabulary styles that writer value to explain it is easy to understand. The particular writer made some study when he makes this book. Here is why this book suited all of you.

David McKenney:

Many people spending their time by playing outside with friends, fun activity having family or just watching TV all day every day. You can have new activity to invest your whole day by examining a book. Ugh, do you consider reading a book can actually hard because you have to use the book everywhere? It all right you can have the e-book, getting everywhere you want in your Smart phone. Like My Century: A Novel which is keeping the e-book version. So , why not try out this book? Let's see.

**Download and Read Online My Century: A Novel By Günter Grass
#MJ4Q60LTIYW**

Read My Century: A Novel By Günter Grass for online ebook

My Century: A Novel By Günter Grass Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read My Century: A Novel By Günter Grass books to read online.

Online My Century: A Novel By Günter Grass ebook PDF download

My Century: A Novel By Günter Grass Doc

My Century: A Novel By Günter Grass Mobipocket

My Century: A Novel By Günter Grass EPub