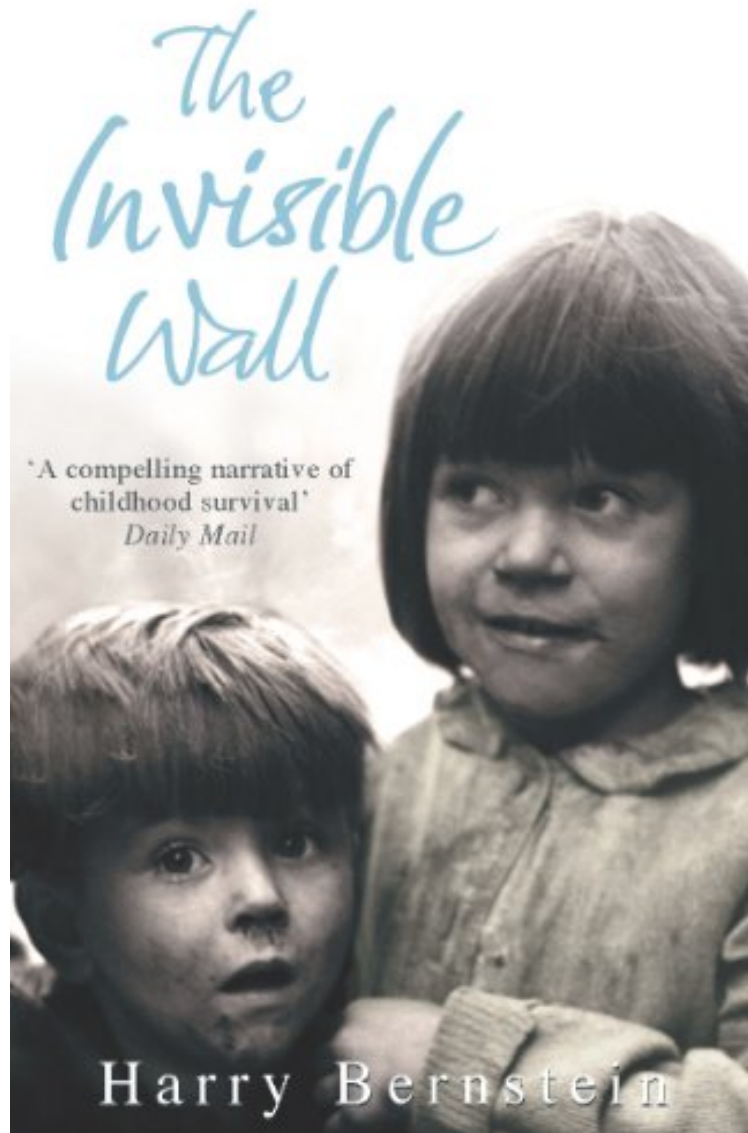


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## The Invisible Wall

Von Harry Bernstein

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**Von Harry Bernstein : The Invisible Wall** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Invisible Wall:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A truly remarkable bookVon Martin MahadevanThis is a remarkable book. For a change, it is not one of those countless Oxbridge memoirs of privileged idlers, but a gripping account of the rough reality and misery of a Jewish working-class childhood in Salford/Manchester. Usually these people are the ghosts and shadows of history like the armies of

domestic servants who made the lives of all those writers of Oxbridge memoirs cosy and comfortable. Maybe the most remarkable figure is Bernstein's mother, married to a hopeless, violent drunk and desperately trying to make ends meet while raising six children. As there are unfortunately very few of these books, the more important is this one.0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. sehr bewegendVon Sabine MnzenbergDiesen zweiten Band habe ich, ebenso wie den ersten, verschlungen und mit sehr viel Anteilnahme gelesen. Die Beschreibung der Lebensumstnde in einer kleinen englischen Stadt kurz vor dem ersten Weltkrieg und die fast unberbrckbare Kluft zwischen Juden und Christen ist so anschaulich beschrieben, so dass man sich fast als Teil dieser Gemeinschaft fhlt. Ein herrlicher Romanstoff, der sich auch noch genauso zugetragen hat. Ich wrde es immer wieder lesen.2 von 4 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Literarisches Juwel, packende autobiografische GeschichteVon poetryisjusttheashInhaltlich muss der Kurzbeschreibung von gar nichts hinzugefgt werden. Das Buch ist sowohl sprachlich als auch inhaltlich eins der schntesten englischsprachigen Bcher, die ich in den letzten Jahren gelesen habe. Sehr empfehlenswert, wenn man sich fr die Thematik und autobiografische Geschichten interessiert !

KurzbeschreibungHarry Bernstein was born into a world of hardship and suffering in a northern mill town, in the shadow of the First World War.His brutish father spends what little he earns at the tailoring shop on drink, while his devoted mother survives on her dreams - that new shoes might secure Harry's admission to a fancy school, that her daughter might marry well, and that one day they might all escape this grinding poverty for the paradise of America.But as the years go by, life for the Bernsteins on their narrow cobbled street remains a daily struggle to make ends meet. For young Harry though, most distressing are his fears for his adored elder sister Lily, who is risking all by pursuing a forbidden love...From Booklist\*Starred \* The writer is 95. This memoir is his first book. And it is a groundbreaking story of family secrets and forbidden love told in plain, beautiful prose through the eyes of a young Jewish boy, Harry, growing up in an English working-class neighborhood near Manchester on the eve of World War I. On one side of the street are the Jews; on the other side are the Christians. There is no violent hostility like the pogroms that drove Harry's parents from Eastern Europe, but an invisible wall keeps the two sides totally separate. "The one thing the two sides have in common is poverty." And prejudice. Then Harry's gifted older sister, Lily, falls in love with brilliant Arthur from the other side. They meet in secret, trusting Harry not to tell. When they are found out, the distraught family tries to send Lily to America: "A child who marries a non-Jew is dead." Far from rambling oral history, the chapters are tense with danger and with tenderness, especially Harry's family life: his brutal, distant father ("I never talked to him, nor he to me"); his loving mother; and Lily, who wins a scholarship and the chance to become a teacher until her father drags her to the tailor shop by her hair. Meanwhile, in the larger world, the question lingers, Will the war in Europe really end all wars? A great book for discussion groups--and not just for Jews. Hazel RochmanCopyright American Library Association. All rights reservedFrom School Library JournalAdult/High SchoolWhen Bernstein, who is in his 90s, was a boy, his older sister, Lily, was in love with Arthur. This would not have been a problem except that Arthur was Christian and Lily was Jewish, and in their pre-Great War mill town in northern England, an invisible wall ran down their street, separating them. Neighbors rarely crossed those few cobblestoned feet. In winter, the Jews built a snow slide on their side and the Christians built one on theirs. There was not much other frivolity in those hard times. Home was not a happy place for Harry, his mother, and his five brothers and sisters when his mean, alcoholic father was there. When 12-year-old Lily won a scholarship to grammar school, her father dragged her by the hair to work with him. Harry's mother started a shop in her front room to make ends meet, selling slightly damaged fruit and providing a place for socializing and gossip. She always hoped for better, having Harry write letters to their relatives in America, beseeching them on a regular basis to send passage for her family, and then, finally, only for Lily when the lovers were discovered. Barriers were finally broken as Lily refused to give up either Arthur or her mother. Readers will be taken with this memoir, reminiscent of Frank McCourt's *Angela's Ashes* (Scribner, 1996). It will grab them from the start, drawing them into an intimate relationship with Harry, Lily, their mother, and the various neighbors who lived on their street.Ellen Bell, Amador Valley High School, Pleasanton, CA Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.