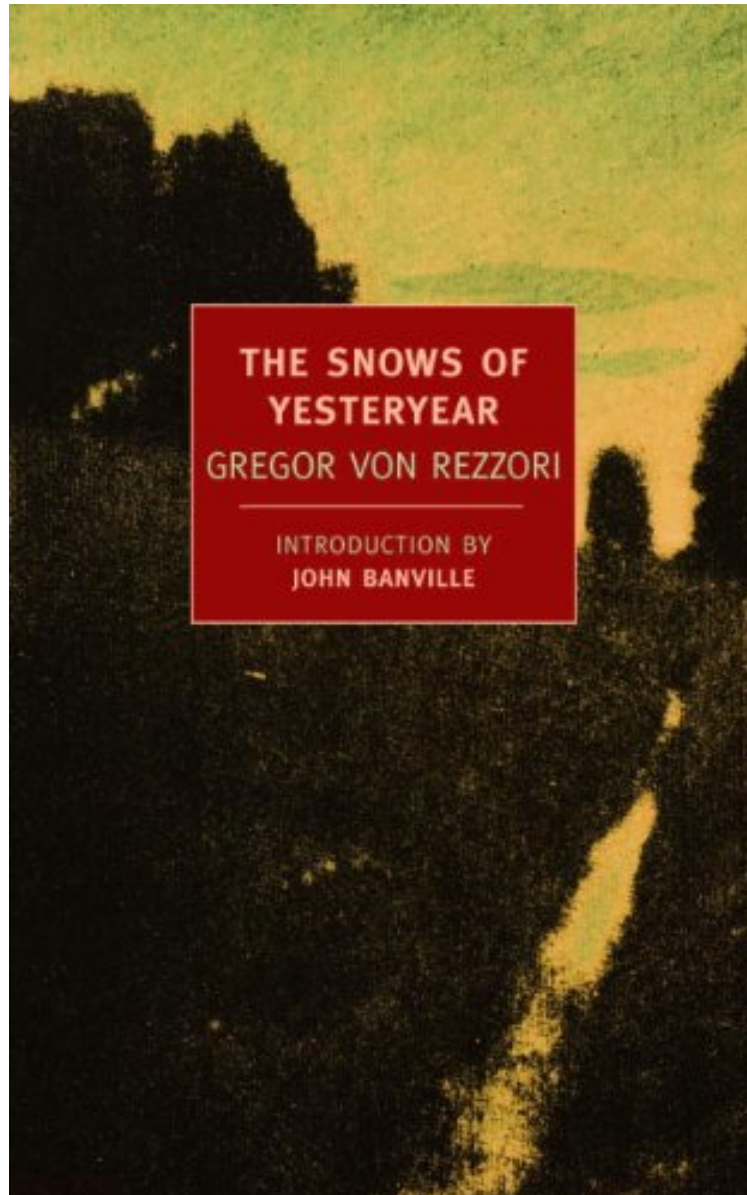


[Mobile ebook] The Snows of Yesteryear (New York Review Books Classics)

The Snows of Yesteryear (New York Review Books Classics)

Von Gregor Von Rezzori

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Von Gregor Von Rezzori : The Snows of Yesteryear (New York Review Books Classics) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Snows of Yesteryear (New York Review Books Classics):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Von Rezzori is an excellent prose stylist.Von Avid HikerThis is an exceptional book. Everyone in von Rezzori's family is

fascinating--including his governess, who was a friend of Mark Twain. The Bukovina, where the author grew up, is remote, strange, and beautiful. The politics of the period are byzantine, yet von Rezzori clarifies beautifully. His writing style is fresh, vivid, easy. He has a cosmopolitan vocabulary. If you like this book, definitely read his MEMOIRS OF AN ANTI-SEMITE, also very fine.

Kurzbeschreibung Gregor von Rezzori was born in Czernowitz, a onetime provincial capital of the Austro-Hungarian Empire that was later to be absorbed successively into Romania, the USSR, and the Ukraine a town that was everywhere and nowhere, with a population of astonishing diversity. Growing up after World War I and the collapse of the empire, Rezzori lived in a twilight world suspended between the formalities of the old nineteenth-century order which had shaped his aristocratic parents and the innovations, uncertainties, and raw terror of the new century. The haunted atmosphere of this dying world is beautifully rendered in the pages of *The Snows of Yesteryear*. The book is a series of portraits amused, fond, sometimes appalling of Rezzori's family: his hysterical and histrionic mother, disappointed by marriage, destructively obsessed with her children's health and breeding; his father, a flinty reactionary, whose only real love was hunting; his haughty older sister, fated to die before thirty; his earthy nursemaid, who introduced Rezzori to the power of storytelling and the inevitability of death; and a beloved governess, Bunchy. Telling their stories, Rezzori tells his own, holding his early life to the light like a crystal until it shines for us with a prismatic brilliance. From Library Journal Von Rezzori, author of the novel *Memoirs of an Anti-Semite*, focuses on a childhood in Bukovina "spent among mad and dislocated personalities." His nurse, an illiterate peasant called "the savage" by the family, provides him the warmth and love his parents cannot give and symbolizes for him his visceral connection to his homeland. His mother's real tenderness alternates with neurotic anxiety and rage; rather asexual, she is the wrong match for his father's vital, "highly luminous temperament." They separate, and her remarriage is disastrous. Von Rezzori's "astonishingly precocious" sister dies an early death mysteriously linked to a failed business venture of his mother. His governess fosters his drawing talent, but his sister's death and his mother's "need" of him stifle his budding career. These five portraits shed light on the old Europe of the Austro-Hungarian Empire and the way of life that passed with it.- Richard Kuczkowski, *Dominican Coll.*, Blauvelt, N.Y. Copyright 1989 Reed Business Information, Inc. *Pressestimmen* "One of those rare and lovely books that defy category. Fiction and non-fiction meet in the precision and quality of Rezzori's prose, in his passion for the perfect detail, and in his power to capture the reader's heart."-Alan Furst Von Rezzori's best-known novel, *Memoirs of an Anti-Semite*, and his recent memoir, *The Snows of Yesteryear*, were works of sly, silky lyricism filled with sharp detail and a deft, ironic moral weight. Above all they offered marvelous character-portraits in prose, with the novel wryly evoking the women who shaped its narrator's sensual and intellectual life and the memoir giving an indelible account of von Rezzori's tragicomically dysfunctional family as it weathered the cataclysms of a war-stricken Europe. *Washington Post* *The Snows of Yesteryear* leads into a world now irretrievably lost, its values blown away by World War I and its fortunes wrecked by the inflationary 20s. Strong material, then; and Rezzori follows this family back with a fine disdain for sentiment, a transparency of feeling, an acid sense of humor and a vigilant eye for nuances of love and indifference, language, landscape and class behavior. It is not a young man's (or a moralist's) book. But it is intensely moving and contains, in its winding and ironic cadences, not a slack sentence. *Time* magazine Writing in lyrical, allusive prose elegantly translated from the German by H. F. Broch de Rothermann Mr. von Rezzori uses his portraits to create a book that is, at once, an autobiography and a picture of a vanished age. *The Snows of Yesteryear* reveals its author's rich pictorial imagination, his seemingly total recall, his gift for revealing character through anecdotes colored by memory. His book remains both an elegiac tribute to a receding past and a testament to the redemptive powers of memory a family photography album, beautifully translated into words. Michiko Kakutani, *The New York Times* *The Snows of Yesteryear* is a classic which bears comparison in its artistic integrity with Nabokov's *Invitation of a Spring*, *Invitation of a Memory* and Sartre's *Les Mots*. *The Independent* (London) *The Snows of Yesteryear* is autobiography as portraiture. Each portrait is a miniature of the Bukovinian past. *The New York Times* If any individual life could encapsulate the geographic and psychic dislocation that has been the central experience of the 20th century, that life might be Gregor von Rezzori's. Rezzori has explored the consequences of this century's disruptions in a series of remarkable books: *The Death of My Brother Abel*, *Memoirs of an Anti-Semite*, and *The Snows of Yesteryear*. *Newsday* [*Memoirs of an Anti-Semite* and *The Snows of Yesteryear* are] works sly, silky lyricism filled with sharp detail and a deft, ironic moral weight. Above all they offered marvelous character-portraits in prose. *The Washington Post* *The Snows of Yesteryear*'s five portraits add up to a nonfiction Bildungsroman an eclectic cultural smorgasbord almost comical in its complications. Shrewdly dovetailing psychological observation and factual background in five marvelous interdependent narratives, Rezzori blends public and personal history with brilliance and aplomb. Praise should go to translator H. F. Broch de Rothermann for rendering Rezzori's German into such seductively lyrical English prose. *The Seattle Times* The weight of history lies heavily on the people of Central Europe; this powerful memoir shows us how painful that weight can be. *Newsday* "Dazzling prose, humane insights and good humor [Rezzori] has created, not simply recorded a memoir of

growing up in the linguistic and political no-man's-land of interbellum central Europe." Boston Globe
The iconoclastic author of *Memoirs of an Anti-Semite* and *The Death of My Brother Abel* mulls over his childhood. Like Elias Canetti, a modern Homer of Central European aristocracy, Rezzori frames the past like a classicist, feels it like a tormented youth. Philadelphia Inquirer
The Snows of Yesteryear is a classic which bears comparison in its artistic integrity with Nabokov's *Invitation to a Beheading*, *Invitation to a Memory* and Sartre's *Les Mots*. The Independent (London)
Intensely moving...with a fine disdain for sentiment, a transparency of feeling, an acid sense of humor and a vigilant eye for nuances of love and indifference, language, landscape, and class behavior. Robert Hughes, *Time*