



After Nature (Modern Library Paperbacks)

By W.G. Sebald

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After Nature (Modern Library Paperbacks) By W.G. Sebald

After Nature, W. G. Sebald's first literary work, now translated into English by Michael Hamburger, explores the lives of three men connected by their restless questioning of humankind's place in the natural world. From the efforts of each, "an order arises, in places beautiful and comforting, though more cruel, too, than the previous state of ignorance." The first figure is the great German Renaissance painter Matthias Grünewald. The second is the Enlightenment botanist-explorer Georg Steller, who accompanied Bering to the Arctic. The third is the author himself, who describes his wanderings among landscapes scarred by the wrecked certainties of previous ages.

After Nature introduces many of the themes that W. G. Sebald explored in his subsequent books. A haunting vision of the waxing and waning tides of birth and devastation that lie behind and before us, it confirms the author's position as one of the most profound and original writers of our time.

From the Hardcover edition.

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Editorial Review

From Library Journal

Alas, Sebald didn't live to see the National Book Critics Circle give him its 2001 fiction award for Austerlitz. At least readers have the consolation of this three-part prose poem, which limns the life journeys of Renaissance painter Matthias Grunewald, explorer/botanist Georg Stellar, and Sebald himself. Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Review

"A writer of almost unclassifiable originality, but whose voice we recognize as indispensable and central to our time." —*The New York Times Book Review*

"The language of *After Nature*, as conveyed in Michael Hamburger's flawlessly clear translation, is classically lucid. . . . It is [Sebald's] ability to enter diverse inner landscapes, and evoke, with an impartial empathy, entire geographies of experience, that gives [his] writing . . . its gravitas and its somber beauty." —*The New York Times Book Review*

"Accessible and moving . . . a wonderful introduction to this compelling and impressive writer, even for those who insist they do not like or understand poetry." —*USA Today*

"Here, we find the contours or outlines of his singular vision, the interconnecting, often uninterpreted threads of association that constitute a life, and meditations on his great themes of exile, memory, and loss." —*The Washington Post*

"The verse retains the Sebaldian virtues of rhetorical elegance and clarity, and sits well in English, as indeed does virtually every word he wrote. . . . [After Nature] is a work of great power and seriousness, fully worthy to stand beside the prose works of Sebald's last decade." —*The New York Review of Books*

Language Notes

Text: English (translation)

Original Language: German

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Geneva Richardson:

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