



Look Who's Back

By Timur Vermes

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"What would happen if Adolf Hitler woke up in modern-day Berlin? In a bestselling satirical novel, he'd end up a TV comedy star . . . [*Look Who's Back*] has unsurprisingly sparked debate in a country that has grappled for decades with Hitler's unconscionable legacy."

-*Time*

Timur Vermes' record-breaking bestseller, *Look Who's Back*, is a satirical novel that imagines what would happen if Hitler reawakened in present-day Germany. The book was a massive success in Germany, selling more than 1.5 million copies. Janet Maslin of *The New York Times* called *Look Who's Back* "desperately funny . . . an ingenious comedy of errors."

In the novel, Adolf Hitler wakes up in 2011 from a 66-year sleep in his subterranean Berlin bunker to find the Germany he knew entirely changed: Internet-driven media spreads ideas in minutes and fumes celebrity obsession; immigration has produced multicultural neighborhoods bringing together people of varying race, ethnicity, and religion; and the most powerful person in government is a woman. Hitler is immediately recognized . . . as an impersonator of uncommon skill. The public assumes the fulminating leader of the Nazi party is a performer who is always in character, and soon his inevitable viral appeal begets YouTube stardom, begets television celebrity on a Turkish-born comedian's show. His bigoted rants are mistaken for a theatrical satire-exposing prejudice and misrepresentation-and his media success emboldens Hitler to start his own political party, and set the country he finds a shambles back to rights.

With daring and dark humor, *Look Who's Back* skewers the absurdity and depravity of the cult of personality in modern media culture.

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Look Who's Back By Timur Vermes Bibliography

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Editorial Review

Review

***Look Who's Back*, the film, is streaming on Netflix!**

An *Independent* Best Books of the Year selection

A *New York Times* Summer Reading Pick

"You know his name. You know his face. You know his hair and mustache, which are caricatured with sharp, witty minimalism on the cover of *Look Who's Back*, in which a baffled Adolf Hitler is returned to the even more baffled German people. Now you'll also know Timur Vermes, whose debut novel has created a sensation in Germany. [*Look Who's Back*] is desperately funny . . . Mr. Vermes has created an ingenious comedy of errors in which the jokes are either on Hitler's misapprehensions about the modern world or the modern world's refusal to take him at face value . . . Read this book."

?Janet Maslin, *The New York Times*

"Very funny . . . The frisson of reading *Look Who's Back* comes from its seamless transition from Borscht Belt one-liners to disturbing invocations of the legacies of Nazi rule. Mr. Vermes gives us a bracingly double-sided Hitler-the arresting public speaker and astute negotiator who loves dogs and small children, and also the fanatical champion of political violence, global tyranny and ethnic cleansing . . . Translator Jamie Bulloch helps by providing a glossary at the close of the book, but what people will remember is his perfect rendering of the ridiculously orotund, yet oddly compelling, manner of Hitler's speechifying."

?Sam Sacks, *The Wall Street Journal*

"We're startled into a genuine laugh . . . Vermes plays all of this straight, or at least deadpan. He is not a historian, but his presentation of the minutiae of Hitler's life amounts to an impressive feat of historical research . . . the ventriloquism here is impressive . . . The most striking and provocative feature of the narrative, in fact, is not the decision to resurrect Hitler but the choice to use him as a first-person narrator - to risk telling us more about Hitler than could be known, in Forster's phrase." **?Daniel Torday, *The New York Times***

"*Look Who's Back* is Hitler satire at its best . . . while there has been much debate over whether or why it's appropriate to laugh at Vermes's relentless Hitler satire, this well-researched and uproariously cringe-worthy book makes it hard not to . . . It is ultimately a sort of commentary on Hitler's first ascent to power-on the point at which a charismatic man starts being taken seriously, and what that transition entails . . . laugh-out-loud funny." **?Kira Bindrim, *Newsweek***

"A hilarious, yet poignant look at today's world through the eyes of one of its most horrific villains . . . the political and social satires translate well through the language barrier as the translator, Jamie Bulloch, did a fantastic job in the writing." **?Seattle Post Intelligencer**

"*Look Who's Back* offers searing cultural and political commentary in the guise of a wildly entertaining story." **?Paste Magazine**

"[A] wickedly satiric first novel . . . Hitler is, of course, deadly serious, and the dissonance between his earnest bigotry and the vacuousness of our media-soaked age is the comic grist that propels the novel toward its truly ironic conclusion. While German journalist Vermes has a good deal to say about the state of contemporary Germany, his reach here is more universal, as he's crafted a sardonic send-up of a media and a world where the message doesn't matter so long as your ratings are high and your videos go viral on YouTube."?Library Journal

"Thrillingly transgressive."?The Guardian

"The joke is not on the reanimated Fuhrer, spouting predictably on immigrant and Jews, but on the ironic flippancy of the YouTube generation . . . rollickingly enjoyable."?Angel Gurria-Quintana, *The Financial Times*

"It is 2011 and Hitler is back and going viral in a darkly entertaining satire."?The Sunday Times

"Hilarious . . . The appeal of the story is our own reaction to a monster's view of how we live today. And being chilled by our own empathy with his disgust toward the media, politicians, government and, of course, technology . . . Vermes could have made the star of this book anyone from history. He's really telling us about ourselves."?Esther Cepeda, *Washington Post* syndicated columnist

"For Vermes's novel is not so much a satire on Third Reich revisionism and nostalgia--although that plays its part--as on the blank ironies of amoral and fad-crazy multi-platform media. For parallels, think Sacha Baron Cohen and Chris Morris. The undead Fuhrer gets his first big break on a show hosted by a Turkish-origin comedian called Ali Gagez."

?Bolyd Tonkin, *The Independent*

"Packed with wry, close-to-the-knuckle hilarity, and builds to a gloriously ironic conclusion."?Mail on Sunday

"Both funny and frightening, this is a subtle, historical study of the commanding nature of a fanatical demagogue, as well as a savage critique of contemporary western culture . . . a powerful and important book."?Sue Gaisford, *The Independent on Sunday*

"Very funny"?Financial Times

"What would happen if Adolf Hitler woke up in modern-day Berlin? In a bestselling satirical novel, he'd end up a TV comedy star . . . [*Look Who's Back*] has unsurprisingly sparked debate in a country that has grappled for decades with Hitler's unconscionable legacy."

?Time

About the Author

The son of a German mother and a Hungarian father who fled the country in 1956, Timur Vermes was born in Nuremberg in 1967. He studied history and politics and went on to become a journalist. He has written for the *Abendzeitung* and the *Cologne Express* and worked for various magazines. He has ghostwritten several books since 2007. This is his first novel.

ABOUT THE TRANSLATOR: Jamie Bulloch's translations include Ruth Maier's *Diary, Portrait of a Mother as a Young Women* by F. C. Delius, and novels by Paulus Hochgatterer and Daniel Glattauer.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Florence Wiggins:

In this 21st millennium, people become competitive in every way. By being competitive now, people have to do something to make these individuals survive, being in the middle of the actual crowded place and notice by surrounding. One thing that occasionally many people have underestimated this for a while is reading. That's why, by reading a guide your ability to survive improve then having chance to stay than other is high. To suit your needs who want to start reading some sort of book, we give you this kind of Look Who's Back book as nice and daily reading e-book. Why, because this book is greater than just a book.

Debbie Bennett:

The guide with title Look Who's Back has lot of information that you can discover it. You can get a lot of advantage after read this book. This specific book exist new information the information that exist in this book represented the condition of the world right now. That is important to you to learn how the improvement of the world. That book will bring you in new era of the syndication. You can read the e-book in your smart phone, so you can read this anywhere you want.

Penny Laughlin:

A lot of people always spent their own free time to vacation or perhaps go to the outside with them household or their friend. Did you know? Many a lot of people spent these people free time just watching TV, or perhaps playing video games all day long. If you want to try to find a new activity that is look different you can read any book. It is really fun for yourself. If you enjoy the book you read you can spent the whole day to reading a book. The book Look Who's Back it doesn't matter what good to read. There are a lot of folks that recommended this book. These people were enjoying reading this book. Should you did not have enough space to develop this book you can buy the e-book. You can more quickly to read this book from a smart phone. The price is not very costly but this book provides high quality.

Sara Pacheco:

Reading can called brain hangout, why? Because when you find yourself reading a book mainly book entitled Look Who's Back your brain will drift away through every dimension, wandering in every aspect that maybe mysterious for but surely can become your mind friends. Imaging each and every word written in a publication then become one form conclusion and explanation that maybe you never get prior to. The Look Who's Back giving you one more experience more than blown away your brain but also giving you useful facts for your better life in this era. So now let us teach you the relaxing pattern this is your body and mind will probably be pleased when you are finished reading through it, like winning an activity. Do you want to try this extraordinary spending spare time activity?

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