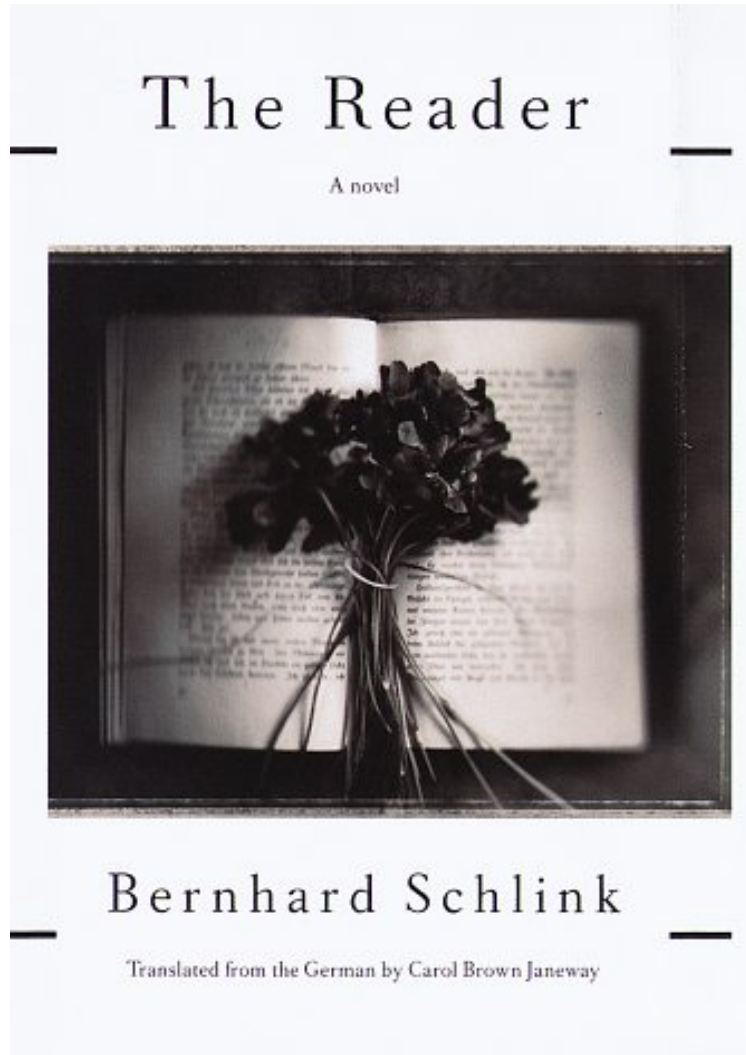


(Pdf free) The Reader

## The Reader

*Bernhard Schlink*

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#2102394 in Books 1997-06 Original language: English PDF # 1 7.75 x 4.75 x 1.00l, .69 #File Name: 0679442790218 pages | File size: 73.Mb

**Bernhard Schlink : The Reader** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Reader:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A complicated story with interesting ethical questions By Cocinero The book raises deep ethical questions, and gives some insight into the German mind, and how the people were able to be controlled by the Nazi dictatorship. They worship "Ordnung ('order')", which is mainly shown by Hanna's reply to why they didn't open the burning church building and allow the prisoners to come out: "We were guards," so they saw their paramount duty as preventing escapes. I was left wondering if Hanna's lying even though it would increase her sentence was done out of shame over being illiterate, or out of wanting to do whatever atonement was possible in the situation. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. It is thoughtful and provoking, but

doesn't offer much more than the movie. By An avid reader. Intelligently written (or at least intelligently translated), I like the storytelling quality of this book ("I remember this, but I don't remember that..."). It is touted as a story with "coiled eroticism," though, and I would say that (by today's standards) this isn't the case at all. The two main characters have sex, okay. We are told that--not much detail is described. Maybe the racey part is that the protagonist is underage. It is a thoughtful and provoking story, but didn't offer much more than the movie--which is surprising to me. I generally find more depth in a story that I've read than watched. Even though I don't remember the movie well (I saw it ages ago), maybe those images stayed in my head and skewed my perception. Thus this wasn't a full 5-star read for me, but still very good. 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. The Tectonic Plates of Memory. By Edward F. Weber. This engrossing story is about an intelligent boy of 15 and his 36 year old seductress whom he later discovers has been an SS security guard at a Nazi gas chamber. I have personal acquaintance with only two men who had similar experiences (minus the SS) and both lives have turned out badly, but in different ways. Is the well always poisoned? Did it really have anything to do with their later lives? Frankly I forget how Dustin Hoffman's future is suggested at the ending of "The Graduate;" I might want to watch him and Mrs. Robinson again sometime. Bernard Schlink explores what happens in the soul of his young man and suggests what goes on within the woman. Somewhere he mentions the layers of human memory like tectonic plates pressed together so tightly that they are inescapably a part of us. As someone has said, guilt is the gift that keeps on giving. There is so much in this book of the "woulda, coulda, shoulda" sort of thing I can easily recommend it to my book club. The discussion might never end. I compliment Ms. Janeway on an excellent translation.

Already an acclaimed and best-selling work of fiction in Europe (currently being translated into fourteen different languages worldwide), *The Reader* is both a literary surprise and a moral challenge: a riveting, provocative, and deeply moving novel about a young boy's erotic awakening in a passionate, clandestine love affair with an older woman, and what happens to them both when the secrets in her past are revealed. Fifteen-year-old Michael Berg becomes ill on the way home from school. A woman takes care of him. Later, the boy arrives at her home with a bunch of flowers to thank her. And then comes back again. Hanna is the first woman he has ever desired. But there is something slightly off-key about her. His questions about her family and her life go unanswered. One day Hanna simply disappears. Michael's life goes on, but he can't forget her. Years later, as a law student observing a trial in Germany, Michael is shocked to realize that the person in the dock is Hanna. The woman he had loved so passionately is a criminal. Much about her behavior during the trial makes no sense. But then, suddenly and terribly, it does--Hanna is not only obliged to answer for a horrible crime, she is also desperately concealing an even deeper secret. As the past erupts into the present--both Michael's past with Hanna, and the past of Germany itself--Michael must accept that he will never be free of either of them.

.com Oprah Book Club Selection, February 1999: Originally published in Switzerland, and gracefully translated into English by Carol Brown Janeway, *The Reader* is a brief tale about sex, love, reading, and shame in postwar Germany. Michael Berg is 15 when he begins a long, obsessive affair with Hanna, an enigmatic older woman. He never learns very much about her, and when she disappears one day, he expects never to see her again. But, to his horror, he does. Hanna is a defendant in a trial related to Germany's Nazi past, and it soon becomes clear that she is guilty of an unspeakable crime. As Michael follows the trial, he struggles with an overwhelming question: What should his generation do with its knowledge of the Holocaust? "We should not believe we can comprehend the incomprehensible, we may not compare the incomparable.... Should we only fall silent in revulsion, shame, and guilt? To what purpose?" *The Reader*, which won the Boston Book 's Fisk Fiction Prize, wrestles with many more demons in its few, remarkably lucid pages. What does it mean to love those people--parents, grandparents, even lovers--who committed the worst atrocities the world has ever known? And is any atonement possible through literature? Schlink's prose is clean and pared down, stripped of unnecessary imagery, dialogue, and excess in any form. What remains is an austere beautiful narrative of the attempt to breach the gap between Germany's pre- and postwar generations, between the guilty and the innocent, and between words and silence. --R. Ellis From School Library Journal YA. Michael Berg, 15, is on his way home from high school in post-World War II Germany when he becomes ill and is befriended by a woman who takes him home. When he recovers from hepatitis many weeks later, he dutifully takes the 40-year-old Hanna flowers in appreciation, and the two become lovers. The relationship, at first purely physical, deepens when Hanna takes an interest in the young man's education, insisting that he study hard and attend classes. Soon, meetings take on a more meaningful routine in which after lovemaking Michael reads aloud from the German classics. There are hints of Hanna's darker side: one inexplicable moment of violence over a minor misunderstanding, and the fact that the boy knows nothing of her life other than that she collects tickets on the streetcar. Content with their arrangement, Michael is only too willing to overlook Hanna's secrets. She leaves the city abruptly and mysteriously, and he does not see her again until, as a law student, he sits in on her case when she is being tried as a Nazi criminal. [...] The theme of good versus evil and the question of moral responsibility are eloquently presented in this spare coming-of-age story that's sure to inspire questions and passionate discussion. Jackie Gropman, Kings Park Library, Burke, VA Copyright

1997 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal After falling ill on the street in the German town where he lives, 15-year-old Michael is helped by a woman named Hanna. When he returns to her apartment to thank her several months later, he begins a passionate love affair with her. In time, she demands that he read aloud to her before they make love, and they essay some of Germany's and the world's great literature together. One day, however, Hanna disappears without saying farewell, and Michael grieves and believes it to be his fault. He finds her again years later when, as a law student, he encounters her as the defendant in a court case. To reveal more of the plot would be unfair, but this very readable novel by German author Schlink probes the nature of love, guilt, and responsibility while painting a sympathetic portrait of Michael and an achingly complex picture of Hanna. Recommended for most collections. Michael T. O'Pecko, Towson State Univ., Md. Copyright 1997 Reed Business Information, Inc.