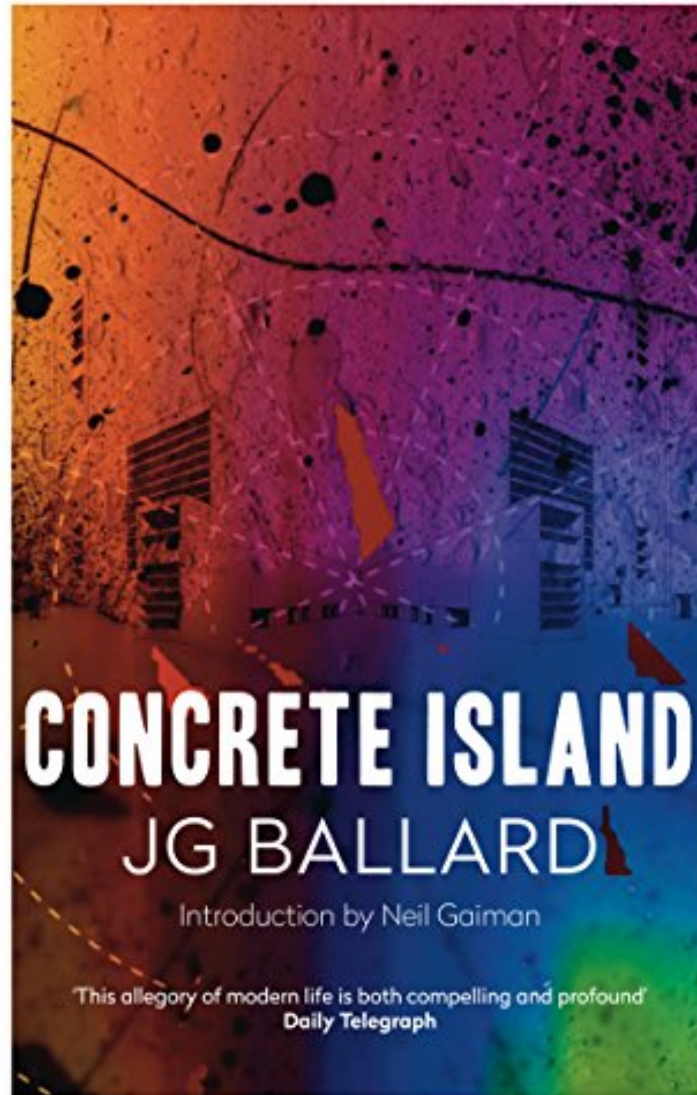


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Concrete Island

Von J. G. Ballard

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Von J. G. Ballard : Concrete Island before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Concrete Island:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen2 von 2 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich.
Robinson Crusoe in the Waste LandVon Sean PayneBallard's universe is a cruel, airless and peculiarly British place, even when his dramas occur in an unspecific everywhere, a generalized Euro-city on the edge of decay. I looked

forward to reading "Concrete Island" as it sounded so preposterous, and therefore possessing one of the qualities of Ballard's best stories. Reading him at his best is thrilling, like watching a circus performer on a tightrope. You're aware how precarious it must be keeping everything in the air and stable, yet also appreciating the secret art of it, aware that it's supposed to look hard. The illusion doesn't quite succeed here. It is not quite the masterpiece "Crash" was, though it does share many of that book's disturbing themes. He describes a world exactly like our own, yet drained of empathy and common purpose. People, like the figures who populate the "island", scratch about to survive, forced to compete violently and self-destructively for resources while the rest of us, oblivious, rush off to appointments or home for dinner. This is one of the most obviously and persuasively political of Ballard's books. It is however a pity, and a familiar limitation of his writing (and SF generally) that at no time do the characters transcend their function in the novel's machinery and step out to become fully formed creations. He is a writer of images and ideas, obsessively visual and descriptive, but oddly lacking in the ability to give his characters independent existence.

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. What Dreams are Made Of Von Elisabeth This book was very dream like. I kept expecting the main character to wake up from his accident with a concussion...like Dorothy on the Wizard of Oz. Actually it was more like a nightmare. Imagine being trapped on a motorway island for weeks and not having the strength to get off of it. Try THIS one on that "Survivor" show! The characters in the story were not very complex but the story moved along and there was enough going on to compensate for that. It showed exactly to what lengths one would go if faced with being marooned on a concrete island. It was just under 200 pages and a short read by anyone's standards....a good book to take on a vacation. That is as long as you don't plan to spend time on any deserted islands! The ending to the book was a bit of a letdown, but it leaves things open for a sequel, but how interesting would these characters be in NORMAL situations? If you enjoy reading the likes of Chuck Palahniuk, and Alex Garland...then you'll probably like this one enough to give it 4 stars also.

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Not JGB's best, but definitely GOOD Von Carlos J. C. Ferrao Coming from one of the weirdest setups ever, Ballard weaves a tale of despair, loss of identity and courage. We follow Maitland, a big business architect, as he crashes his car into a grassy island whose boundaries are limited by 3 roads. His attempts at leaving the island are foiled by numerous adverse circumstances and the unkindness of passing drivers (who would stop his speeding car in the middle of a busy road to help a man who looks like a bum?). Maitland's inventiveness and resourcefulness in using his car's attributes to try leaving the island makes this book very interesting and exhilarating. It's hard not to identify with this character as this is one of those "it could happen to you" situations. I like this book very much, but some characters that Maitland meets on the island are a bit too exaggerated and grotesque for my liking. Implausibility has its limits and Ballard walks the fine line in this case.

Kurzbeschreibung A chilling novel about our modern world, from the author of *Empire of the Sun* and *Crash*. An architect is driving home from his London offices when a blow-out sends his speeding Jaguar hurtling out of control and crashing through the motorway barrier. When he tries to climb the embankment or flag-down a passing car for help it proves impossible - and he finds himself marooned on the concrete island. In this twisted version of *Robinson Crusoe*, our hero must learn to survive - using only what he can find in his crashed car. *Concrete Island* provides an unnerving study of our modern lives and world. With his alienating, Ballardian view of normal events, this is a unique novel from one of our finest writers.

Pressestimmen "Visionary of both style and substance . . . the literary equivalent of Salvador Dali or Max Ernst." --"The Washington Post Book World" "Ballard's novels are complex, obsessive, frequently poetic, and always disquieting chronicles of nature rebelling against humans, of the survival of barbarism in a world of mechanical efficiency, of entropy, anomie, breakdown, ruin . . . The blasted landscapes that his characters inhabit are both external settings and states of mind." --Luc Sante "Visionary of both style and substance . . . the literary equivalent of Salvador Dali or Max Ernst. "The Washington Post Book World" Ballard's novels are complex, obsessive, frequently poetic, and always disquieting chronicles of nature rebelling against humans, of the survival of barbarism in a world of mechanical efficiency, of entropy, anomie, breakdown, ruin . . . The blasted landscapes that his characters inhabit are both external settings and states of mind. "Luc Sante" "Visionary of both style and substance . . . the literary equivalent of Salvador Dali or Max Ernst." --The Washington Post Book World "Ballard's novels are complex, obsessive, frequently poetic, and always disquieting chronicles of nature rebelling against humans, of the survival of barbarism in a world of mechanical efficiency, of entropy, anomie, breakdown, ruin . . . The blasted landscapes that his characters inhabit are both external settings and states of mind." --Luc Sante

Pressestimmen "This allegory of modern life is both compelling and profound" *Daily Telegraph* 'Ballard's violent exact prose carries you along irresistibly. You believe him, you accept his vision, and it is a fearful one' *Sunday Telegraph* 'Ballard writes with taut and precise economy, and the moral of his brilliantly original fable is plain: the interstices of our concrete jungle are filled with neglected people, and one day those people could be ourselves' *Sunday Times*