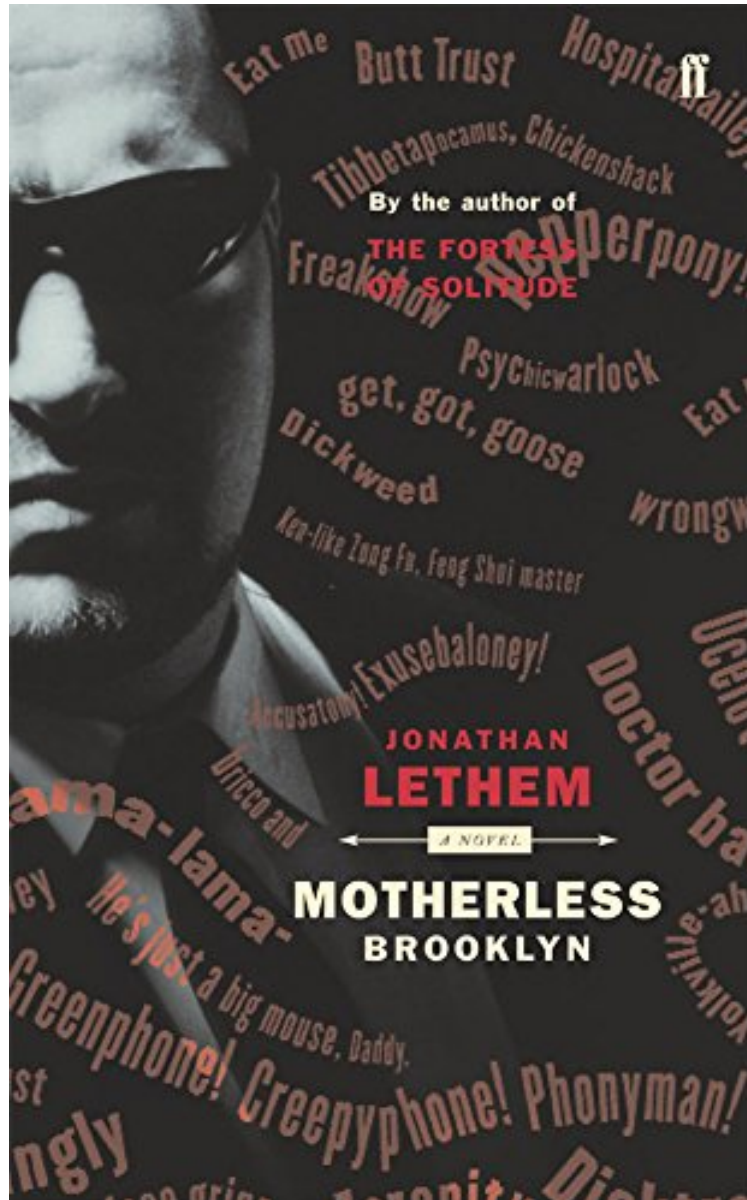


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Motherless Brooklyn (English Edition)

Von Jonathan Lethem

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Von Jonathan Lethem : Motherless Brooklyn (English Edition) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Motherless Brooklyn (English Edition):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A BROOKLYN SCREAMING FOR LOVEVon Michael M.For those of you looking for a great mystery book, this isn't

the one. While there is some detective work going on and a murder to be solved, this is just the background to a bigger and better story. Lionel Essrog, the narrator of the story, has suffered with Tourette's Syndrome his whole life. Not that it has been much of a life....when we meet him he is an orphan living in the St. Vincent's Home for Boys in Brooklyn. He and three other orphans become Minna's Boys, running errands for Frank Minna a local crime boss. Essrog's Tourette's tics become endearing to the reader and when he is ticking off the names of the people in the group and is trying to come up with a total of 6 (his tic number for the day), he is unable to do so. With Frank Minna and the 4 orphans it only adds up to 5. But Lionel hasn't added in the biggest character in the group -- BROOKLYN. Lethem's descriptions of Brooklyn are unparalleled. Everything takes place at the foot of a bridge or in a storefront or at 5AM when the merchants are just waking up. As he's driving over the Pulaski Bridge, I'm right behind him. I'm not sure if someone who isn't familiar with Brooklyn would like this book as much as someone who has strong ties to this borough. Jonathan Lethem describes these orphans as part of "Motherless Brooklyn", children living in Brooklyn without mothers. I'm sure it's intentional on his part that after finishing this book, the reader gets the feeling that it is Brooklyn who really needs a mother -- it's a city without nurturing or love. It's screaming out not to be motherless any longer.0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. An astounding step in detective fiction!Von MarcusLionel Essrog, aka "Freakshow" to his fellow constituents at the LL Car Service, a front for the LL Detective Agency, is the Holden Caulfield of this century--if "Catcher in the Rye" had been told by Raymond Chandler instead of Salinger. This Tourette-riddled narrator guides the reader, albeit in a loopy and rapid-fire free association, through his life in Brooklyn. An orphan boy, though we're really not certain if even that is true, he is "adopted" by Frank Minna, an errand runner for unsavory crime figures, and taken under Minna's wing, despite his "freakshow" qualities. When Minna is murdered, Lionel takes it upon himself to find his friend's killer. The journey will be one not soon forgotten. Lethem ably and aptly deploys his amazing writing skills once again in his fifth fiction outing. After three consecutive readings, I have chosen this novel as the most important and best novel I have ever had the (repeated) pleasure of laying my eyes and hands on. If you don't read this book, give up reading!0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Daring, insightful, and well worth the readVon DMDKudos to Lethem for creating Lionel, one of the most captivating and provocative narrators to hit the shelves in a long time.Part of Lethem's genius is to allow Lionel to be more than a one-trick pony--Lionel's struggle with his Tourettic self is less a punchline than an insightful exploration of a debilitating condition that informs both Lionel's view of the world, and his unique position in it.One part mystery and two parts memoir, Motherless Brooklyn is filled with memorable one-liners and anecdotes conveyed with the frenetic energy that radiates from its narrator. With his unlikely hero, Lethem puts a new spin on the hardboiled detectives of old.

KurzbeschreibungLionel Essrog, a.k.a. the Human Freakshow, is a victim of Tourette's syndrome (an uncontrollable urge to shout out nonsense, touch every surface in reach, rearrange objects). Local tough guy Frank Minna hires the adolescent Lionel and three other orphans from St Vincent's Home for Boys and grooms them to become the Minna Men, a fly-by-night detective-agency-cum-limoservice. Then one terrible day Frank is murdered, and Lionel must become a real detective. With crackling dialogue, a dazzling evocation of place, and a plot which mimics Tourette's itself in its freshness and capacity to shock, Motherless Brooklyn is a bravura performance: funny, tense, touching, and extravagant..dePop quiz. Please complete the following sentence: "There are days when I get up in the morning and stagger into the bathroom and begin running water and then I look up and I don't even recognize my own _." If you answered face, then your name is obviously not Jonathan Lethem. Instead of taking the easy out, the genre-busting novelist concludes this by-the-numbers string of words with toothbrush in the mirror. This brilliant sentence and a lot of other really excellent ones compose Lethem's engaging fifth novel, Motherless Brooklyn. Lionel Essrog, a detective suffering from Tourette's syndrome, spins the narrative as he tracks down the killer of his boss, Frank Minna. Minna enlisted Lionel and his friends when they were teenagers living at Saint Vincent's Home for Boys, ostensibly to perform odd jobs (we're talking very odd) and over the years trained them to become a team of investigators. The Minna men face their most daunting case when they find their mentor in a Dumpster bleeding from stab wounds delivered by an assailant whose identity he refuses to reveal--even while he's dying on the way to the hospital. Detectives? Brooklyn? Is this the same Lethem who danced the postapocalypso in Amnesia Moon? Incredibly, yes, and rarely has such a departure been pulled off with this much aplomb. As in the "toothbrush" passage above, Lethem sets himself up with the imposing task of making tired conventions new. Brooklyn accents? Fuggetaboutit. Lethem's dialogue is as light on its feet as a prize fighter. Lionel's Tourette's could have been an easy joke, but Lethem probes so convincingly into the disorder that you feel simultaneously rattled, sympathetic, and irritated by the guy. Sure, the story is a mystery, but Motherless Brooklyn could be about flower arranging, for all we care. What counts is Lionel's tic-ridden take on a world full of surprises, propelling this fiction forward at edgy, breakneck speed. --Ryan Boudinot.co.ukPetty hoodlum turned owner of a small time detective agency, Frank Minna assembled a team of four orphans and made them his loyal servants: the Minna Men. When Frank is stabbed to death on what was supposed to

be a routine job, Lionel, one of the four, is determined to track down Frank's killer and avenge his death. One thing makes this something of a problem--Lionel has Tourette's syndrome, a collection of tics and compulsions which make him constantly break out in nonsense syllables or cause him to touch every object he sees. His advantage is that most people confuse his disability with stupidity; when he gets up a head of steam, the large slow-moving Lionel is extremely formidable. Taking us from a Zen study centre to a dangerous car park on the New England coast, *Motherless Brooklyn* is at the same time a brilliantly characterised detective novel and an inventive exploration of a particular tone of voice. "Meanwhile, beneath that frozen shell, a sea of language was reaching full boil. It became harder and harder not to notice that when a television pitchman said 'to last the rest of a lifetime' my brain went 'to rest the lust of a loaf tomb' that when I heard 'Alfred Hitchcock', I silently replied 'Altered House clock' or 'Ilford Hotchkiss'." What might have been exploitative--the portrayal of Lionel and his compulsions--is attractive, affirming and compassionate. The sense of Brooklyn as a city full of borderlines between communities, the legal and the illegal, life and death, is overwhelming. --Roz Kaveney