



The Unconsoled

By Kazuo Ishiguro

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The Unconsoled is at once a gripping psychological mystery, a wicked satire of the cult of art, and a poignant character study of a man whose public life has accelerated beyond his control. The setting is a nameless Central European city where Ryder, a renowned pianist, has come to give the most important performance of his life. Instead, he finds himself diverted on a series of cryptic and infuriating errands that nevertheless provide him with vital clues to his own past. In **The Unconsoled** Ishiguro creates a work that is itself a virtuoso performance, strange, haunting, and resonant with humanity and wit.

"A work of great interest and originality.... Ishiguro has mapped out an aesthetic territory that is all his own...frankly fantastic [and] fiercer and funnier than before."--*The New Yorker*

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The Unconsoled By Kazuo Ishiguro Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

A renowned pianist finds himself in a mysterious and dreamlike urban maze.

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From Library Journal

As stylistically distinctive as his acclaimed *The Remains of the Day* (LJ 10/1/89), Ishiguro's newest work offers a different kind of protagonist. While *Remains's* butler was at odds with himself (without knowing it), prominent concert pianist Ryder is at odds with his surroundings. Ryder arrives in an unidentified European city at a bit of a loss. Everyone he meets seems to assume that he knows more than he knows, that he is well acquainted with the city and its obscure cultural crisis. A young woman he kindly consents to advise seems to have been an old lover and her son quite possibly his own; he vaguely recalls past conversations. The world he has entered is a surreal, Alice-in-Wonderland place where a door in a cafe can lead back to a hotel miles away. The result is at once dreamy, disorienting, and absolutely compelling; Ishiguro's paragraphs, though Proust-like, are completely lucid and quite addictive to read. Some readers may find that the whole concept grinds too much against logic, but the pleasure here is that Ishiguro doesn't do anything so ordinary as trying to resolve events neatly, instead taking them at face value. Highly recommended.

--Barbara Hoffert, "Library Journal"

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From [Booklist](#)

A surrealistic atmosphere envelops the latest novel by the author of the much-acclaimed *Remains of the Day* (1989). Kafkaesque in its disjointed reality and in its dark Eastern European ambience, Ishiguro's new work attempts to disorient readers by confusing them as to what's taking place. Those who persist in holding on to this bucking bronco of a story will endure a series of twists and turns that lead down the byways of an unnamed city where Ryder, a world-renowned pianist, has come to present a major concert. Upon his arrival, Ryder seems to be awakening from a dream; he remembers little of where this place is and how he comes to be here. As a *Twilight Zone* feeling develops, Ryder becomes embroiled in other people's tangled personal lives. He seems to know things about people he's never met before--or *has* he?--and they know things about him. Yet he decides at the conclusion of this peculiar visit that "whatever disappointments this city had brought, there was no doubting that my presence had been greatly appreciated--just as it had been everywhere else I had ever gone." An intriguing if perplexing tale for serious fiction readers. Expect demand where Ishiguro has a following. *Brad Hooper*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Sharon Novick:

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Veronica Roberts:

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