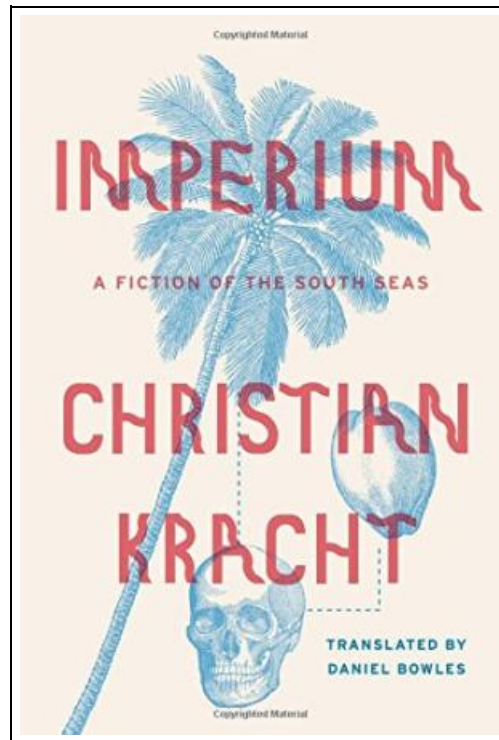


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Reviews

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IMPERIUM: A FICTION OF THE SOUTH SEAS (HARDBACK)



Farrar, Straus and Giroux, United States, 2015. Hardback. Book Condition: New. Translation. 203 x 137 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. One of Publishers Weekly s Ten Best Books of 2015 One of Huffington Post s 18 Best Fiction Books of 2015 An outrageous, fantastical, uncategorizable novel of obsession, adventure, and coconuts In 1902, a radical vegetarian and nudist from Nuremberg named August Engelhardt set sail for what was then called the Bismarck Archipelago, in German New Guinea. His destination: the island Kabakon. His goal: to establish a colony based on worship of the sun and coconuts. His malnourished body was found on the beach on Kabakon in 1919; he was forty-three years old. Christian Kracht s Imperium uses the outlandish details of Engelhardt s life to craft a fable about the allure of extremism and its fundamental foolishness. Engelhardt is at once a pitiable, misunderstood outsider and a rigid ideologue, and his misguided notions of purity and his spiral into madness presage the horrors of the mid-twentieth century. Playing with the tropes of classic adventure tales such as Treasure Island and Robinson Crusoe, Kracht s novel, an international bestseller, is funny, bizarre, shocking, and poignant. His allusions are misleading, his historical time line is twisted, his narrator is unreliable--and the result is a novel that is a cabinet of mirrors, a maze pitted with trapdoors. Both a provocative satire and a serious meditation on the fragility and audacity of human activity, Imperium is impossible to categorize and utterly unlike anything you ve read before.



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