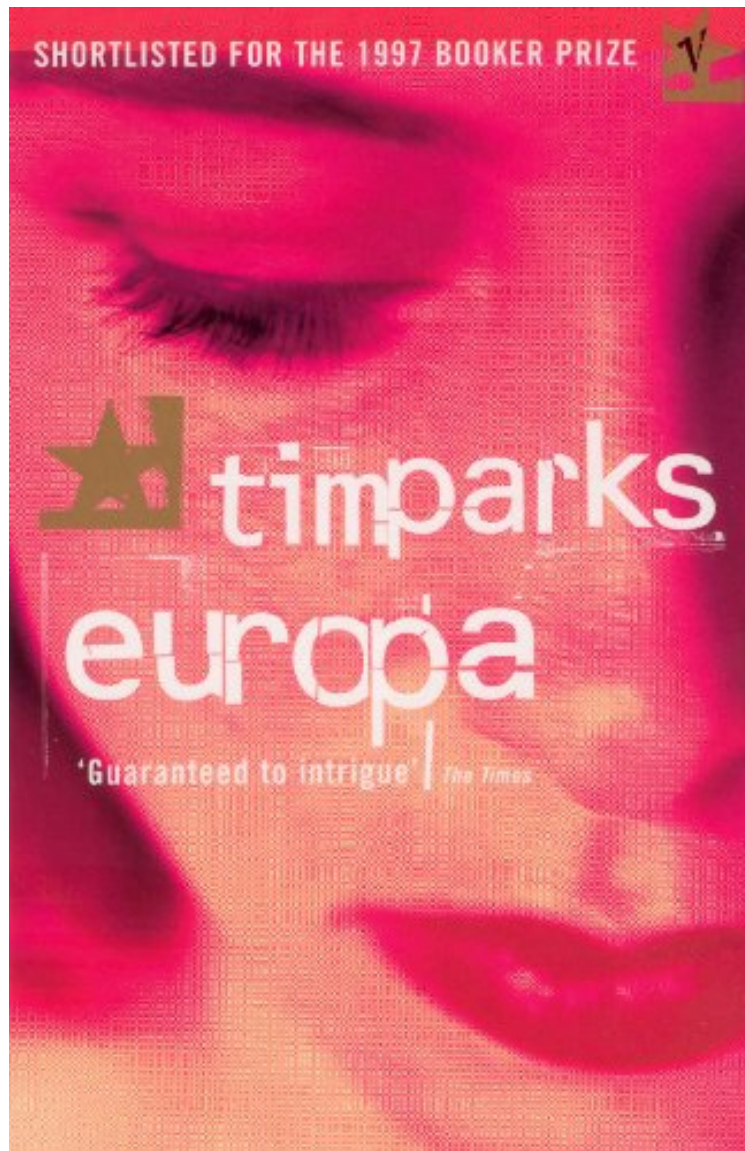


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## Europa

Von Tim Parks

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**Von Tim Parks : Europa** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Europa:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen4 von 4 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich.  
Intelligent, Inner-life readVon Ein KundeIt's too bad that this excellent writer was given short shriftby David Gates in the New York Times, because if he achieved thebest-sellerdom he deserves in the states we might see some of his excellent novels turned into films.But to get to the point, the things other people found fault with (too much inner life)

I adored. I am so tired of lame plots and lamer dialogue. This book does what it does brilliantly, so why not leave it be? His meditation on dogs was daring and priceless, as was his general PC bashing. American readers like Gates probably missed a lot -- i.e., the unification of Europe harking back to Napoleonic grandiosity. It's too bad Americans are so ill educated they can't see how well the author works in so many allusions and western myths. Parks is a one-of-a-kind author. My only complaint here is that he doesn't explain his wife sufficiently -- a sketch of a woman who does nothing but vacuum is a bit lazy, even if her parents did buy them a flat. But this book excels in so many other areas where most novels don't even try, I don't take points off. END1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. For fans of David Lodge or Malcolm Bradbury Von Nicholas Lusty The campus novel goes off campus, or more specifically on a coach journey to the European Parliament. The motley crew of language lecturers and their students from Milan are going to the parliament to protest about the treatment of non-habilitated lecturers. Someone will be a hero, but who? The characters are all beautifully described, and the plot never slows down. If you've enjoyed books like "Changing Places by David Lodge or Malcolm Bradbury's "Dr Criminale", Europa is also bound to please.0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Some interesting points, but flawed with weak characters Von Christopher A. Smith Europa is a hodge-podge of philosophical musings, unlikely characters, uninteresting recollections, and un-noteworthy events that left me cold. Jerry Marlow, a college professor, is the main protagonist who with his colleagues sets off on a long-distance bus trip to save their jobs by lobbying with a group of European bureaucrats. He has no interest in doing this, but does so because his French ex-girlfriend is along as well. She's a character that we never manage to like, therefore the reader never wishes that the two should get back together. In fact, the reader never manages to like Jerry; his philosophical pondering comes across more like pretentious self-important whining. The only other character of note is a Welsh speaking Indian born and bred in Wales, a character so unlikely and outlandish that the reader never quite buys the concept. There are some interesting points in the book, and more than one passage that made me laugh. But in the end, one gets the feeling the author is more interested in impressing the reader with his sophistication and cultural breadth than telling a readable story or developing interesting characters Looking for a novel about a man seeking love lost amidst a colorful political backdrop? Try Ronan Bennett's expertly written "The Catastrophist".

Kurzbeschreibung A brilliantly comic, dark and dyspeptic novel about an obsessive love gone sour. Jealousy and revenge, passion and dread intertwine in one man's soul as he's trapped in the awful claustrophobia of a three-day coach journey across Europe with a group of people he loathes - and the woman who broke his heart..de Jerry Marlow is on a coach hurtling from Milan to Strasbourg, even though he loathes coaches and everything they stand for: ...all the contemporary pieties of getting people together and moving them off in one direction or another to have fun together, or to edify themselves, or to show solidarity to some underprivileged minority and everybody, as I said, being of the same mind and of one intent, every individual possessed by the spirit of the group, which is the very spirit apparently of humanity, and indeed that of Europe, come to think of it, which this group is now hurtling off to appeal. Jerry, suffice to say, is not a team player--not even when it comes to saving his own job. Together with a group of colleagues and students from the University of Milan, he's off to the European Parliament to protest new Italian laws against hiring foreigners--a cause which he opposes, appealing to an institution he's not sure should exist. So why is Jerry on the coach in the first place? Because she is there--the same she for whom Jerry left his wife and daughter and who has since broken his heart. The unnamed she in question is a beautiful French woman (of course), a hellcat in bed (it goes without saying), and an intellect of notable refinement (naturellement). She was also unfaithful, and now they scarcely speak to one another. The rest of this dark and often savagely funny novel (shortlisted for the 1997 Booker Prize) consists of one great Joycean rant, a stream-of-consciousness harangue that circles obsessively around sex, the treachery of she, and Jerry's boundless misanthropy. In between we get glimpses of the bus and its motley cast of characters, including, most vividly, Vikram Griffiths, part Welsh, part Indian, with his nervous tics and his self-consciously Welsh accent and his shaggy mutt, Dafydd. As one might deduce from the title, the dream of the new, unified Europe looms behind this tale like--well, like a big, unwieldy metaphor, given expression in the form of Jerry's affair. As a meditation on the continent's future, the novel works surprisingly well, and though it initially takes some time to sort out the looping rhythms of Parks's prose, the reader's patience is repaid in spades. --Mary Park.com Jerry Marlow is on a coach hurtling from Milan to Strasbourg, even though he loathes coaches and everything they stand for: ...all the contemporary pieties of getting people together and moving them off in one direction or another to have fun together, or to edify themselves, or to show solidarity to some underprivileged minority and everybody, as I said, being of the same mind and of one intent, every individual possessed by the spirit of the group, which is the very spirit apparently of humanity, and indeed that of Europe, come to think of it, which this group is now hurtling off to appeal. Jerry, suffice to say, is not a team player--not even when it comes to saving his own job. Together with a group of colleagues and students from the University of Milan, he's off to the European Parliament to protest new Italian laws against hiring foreigners--a cause which he opposes, appealing to an institution he's not sure should exist. So why is

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