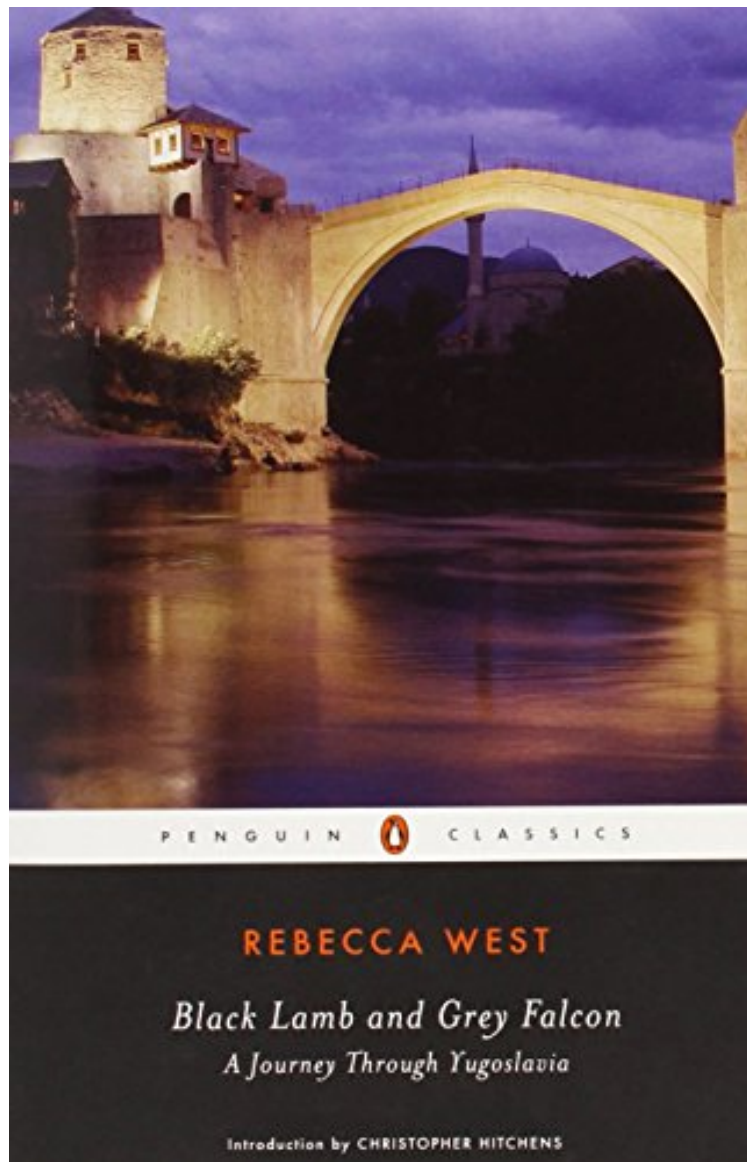


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Black Lamb and Grey Falcon (Penguin Classics)

Rebecca West

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#157879 in Books West, Rebecca/ Hitchens, Christopher (INT) 2007-01-30 2007-01-30Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.30 x 2.00 x 5.50l, 2.22 #File Name: 014310490X1181 pages | File size: 58.Mb

Rebecca West : Black Lamb and Grey Falcon (Penguin Classics) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Black Lamb and Grey Falcon (Penguin Classics):

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Great bookBy Mark TwainBeautifully written, exuberant, playful, rich with history and personal observation. A great readable marvellous book. A classic. Five stars really. I'm giving it four because I found it easy to put down. (But also to pick up again a month later.) It started to feel a bit overdone

when I read long passages. Better in bits and starts. I'm sure it's related to my attention span, and different reading styles today than when it was written. Still, it's a fantastic book. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. To enjoy this one needs something resembling a passion or great ...By Senator James W. Squires This is a very long book that I read a chapter at a time. It remains, a judged by a search about the history of the balkans, still the premier source of information about the ancient and modern history of the Balkans up until 1938. To enjoy this one needs something resembling a passion or great desire to know more about this part of Europe. If any reader is so possessed, this is the book for you. If a reader is more inclined toward "light" reading, this is not the book for you. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. *Black Lamb and Grey Falcon: A Journey through Yugoslavia* By April Black Lamb and Grey Falcon: *A Journey through Yugoslavia*, by London born Cicely Isabel Fairfield (pen name Rebecca West) is a fabulous 1,100 page documentation showing Yugoslavian past, intertwined with present. It is an unprecedented travel book, and it was published during the Nazi Invasion of Yugoslavia, in 1941. Prolific and inventive in her descriptions, Ms. West gives abundant viewpoint of the complex nation once called Yugoslavia. This is an epoch-making must read. The way of presenting the Balkan history and ethnography that was never done before. Quotation by Rebecca West: "To my friends in Yugoslavia, who are now all dead or enslaved". *Black Lamb and Grey Falcon* (Penguin Classics)

Rebecca West's magnum opus . . . one of the great books of our time. The *New Yorker* Written on the brink of World War II, Rebecca West's classic examination of the history, people, and politics of Yugoslavia illuminates a region that is still a focus of international concern. A magnificent blend of travel journal, cultural commentary, and historical insight, *Black Lamb and Grey Falcon* probes the troubled history of the Balkans and the uneasy relationships among its ethnic groups. The landscape and the people of Yugoslavia are brilliantly observed as West untangles the tensions that rule the country's history as well as its daily life. For more than seventy years, Penguin has been the leading publisher of classic literature in the English-speaking world. With more than 1,700 titles, Penguin Classics represents a global bookshelf of the best works throughout history and across genres and disciplines. Readers trust the series to provide authoritative texts enhanced by introductions and notes by distinguished scholars and contemporary authors, as well as up-to-date translations by award-winning translators.

.com Part travelogue, part history, part love letter on a thousand-page scale, Rebecca West's *Black Lamb and Grey Falcon* is a genre-bending masterpiece written in elegant prose. But what makes it so unlikely to be confused with any other book of history, politics, or culture--with, in fact, any other book--is its unashamed depth of feeling: think *The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire* crossed with *Let Us Now Praise Famous Men*. West visited Yugoslavia for the first time in 1936. What she saw there affected her so much that she had to return--partly, she writes, because it most resembled "the country I have always seen between sleeping and waking," and partly because "it was like picking up a strand of wool that would lead me out of a labyrinth in which, to my surprise, I had found myself immured." *Black Lamb* is the chronicle of her travels, but above all it is West following that strand of wool: through countless historical digressions; through winding narratives of battles, slavery, and assassinations; through Shakespeare and Augustine and into the very heart of human frailty. West wrote on the brink of World War II, when she was "already convinced of the inevitability of the second Anglo-German war." The resulting book is colored by that impending conflict, and by West's search for universals amid the complex particulars of Balkan history. In the end, she saw the region's doom--and our own--in a double infatuation with sacrifice, the "black lamb and grey falcon" of her title. It's the story of Abraham and Isaac without the last-minute reprieve: those who hate are all too ready to martyr the innocent in order to procure their own advantage, and the innocent themselves are all too eager to be martyred. To West, in 1941, "the whole world is a vast Kossovo, an abominable blood-logged plain." Unfortunately, little has happened since then to prove her wrong. --Mary Park A masterpiece . . . as astonishing in its range, in the subtlety and power of its judgment, as it is brilliant in expression. *The Times* (London) Surely one of the great books of our century. Diana Trilling From the Back Cover 'Impossible to put down, both timeless and of its time - a travel book and epic narrative history brimming with passion, anger, scholarship and intuition, hatred and love.' *Observer* First published in 1942, Rebecca West's epic masterpiece is widely regarded as the most illuminating book to have been written on what was once Yugoslavia, essential for anyone attempting to understand the enigmatic history of the Balkan states. 'Such incandescent writing - you find yourself wanting to mark every sentence in order to go back and relish it again.' Brian Eno 'One of the supreme masterpieces of the twentieth century . . . As a book about Yugoslavia it's a kind of metaphysical *Lonely Planet* that never requires updating . . . this is history as it might have been written by Ryszard Kapuscinski or Gabriel Garcia Marquez'. Geoff Dyer, from his introduction 'It is hard to convey the flavour of a book so rich in observation, history, philosophy, political ideas and ironic humour. West is full of digressions which are extraordinary, but never boring.' *The Times* 'The sheer quality and depth of the writing make it one of the great books of the century.' *Times Literary Supplement*