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## Beauty Is a Wound



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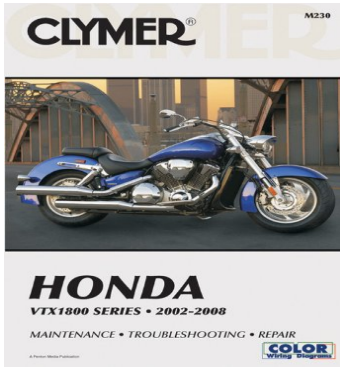
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## Beauty Is a Wound

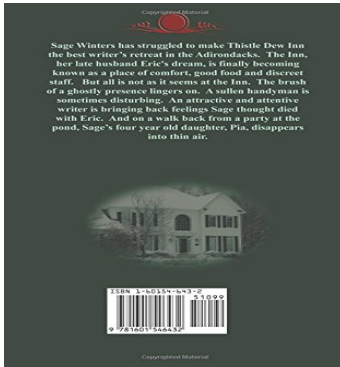
The English-language debut of Indonesia's rising star. The epic novel *Beauty Is a Wound* combines history, satire, family tragedy, legend, humor, and romance in a sweeping polyphony. The beautiful Indo prostitute Dewi Ayu and her four daughters are beset by incest, murder, bestiality, rape, insanity, monstrosity, and the often vengeful undead. Kurniawan's gleefully grotesque hyperbole functions as a scathing critique of his young nation's troubled past: the rapacious offhand greed of colonialism; the chaotic struggle for independence; the 1965 mass murders of perhaps a million "Communists," followed by three decades of Suharto's despotic rule.

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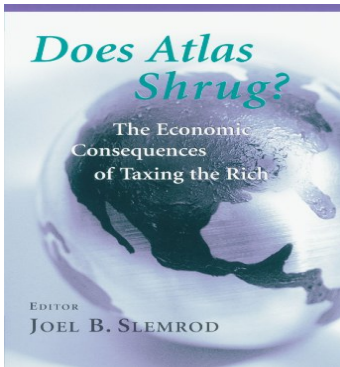
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**Thistle Dew**

Sage Winters is the owner of an Adirondack bed and breakfast aptly named Thistle Dew by her late husband, Eric. She is a strong woman, not only successful in her business but as a mother. Although she tries to be loyal to her love for Eric, frequent guest and author Hawke is so irresistible that



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What others say about this ebook:

**Review 1:**

My opinion on this book for what its worth is that its not a good read. It could be that it is a strictly Indonesian book for Indonesian people perhaps but I was really glad to finish it. I was doing my speed reading towards the last quarter as it was very difficult for me to continue. I was bored mostly. Sorry Mr Kurniawan! I believe this writer is quite famous in his country so I feel rather embarrassed about my opinion. Silly!!! But thats how it is for me. I know quite a bit about this country's history and was very disappointed in the writer's style of its description.

**Review 2:**

A very good read. Informative about the recent history of Indonesia and a wonderful story. Read it with an open mind and do not allow the excessive rough language to distract from the main story line. Felt that some of the cultural and emotions described may have been lost in translation. Wish I could read it in its original language.

**Review 3:**

Too hard to read ...for me at least. Full of spirits and strange characters.

**Review 4:**

Too much magical realism.

**Review 5:**

"One afternoon on a weekend in March, Dewi Ayu rose from her grave after being dead for twenty-one years." Not your usual opening for a novel, is it? Dewi Ayu, formerly the most sought-after prostitute in the district of Halimunda, walks back to her house, takes a bath, and is reunited with her daughter Beauty, who she had prayed would be born ugly -- as indeed she most certainly was. After a few dozen pages, the action slips back in time to Dewi Ayu's childhood, her experience of being forced into a brothel by the invading Japanese, her postwar success in the business on her own, the various suitors for her hand, and so on, covering most of Indonesian history from 1940 to the present.

Eka Kurniawan is a good storyteller, and most of the episodes are interesting in their own ways. Apart from Dewi Ayu herself, we meet a variety of characters who are each a little larger than life, such as the strongest man in the community, or the young former guerilla leader who wants only to retire to a cave and meditate. We learn folk tales such as that of the beautiful Princess Rengganis who, tired of all the men seeking her in marriage, decided one day to throw open her shutters and we'd the first person that she sees. Some of the stories, such as the girls' suffering in the Japanese prison camp, are truly horrible. But the vaguely comic tone of the whole, whether influenced by the folklore tradition or magical realism, makes it difficult to take it all seriously, or even to sustain much interest after a certain point.

A pity, because I genuinely wanted to know more about Indonesia, and also enjoyed the fabulous tone of many of the chapters. But for me, those two elements worked against one another instead of combining.

: Beauty Is a Wound eBook: Eka Kurniawan, Annie ...

**Editorial Reviews. Review.** “Eka's approach in Beauty... mixes seriousness with irreverence, juxtaposing historical fact and magical realism in a manner reminiscent of Salman Rushdie.” - Clarissa Oon, ArtReview Asia “An unforgettable, all-encompassing epic... Upon finishing the book, the reader will have the sense of ...

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**Beauty Is a Wound | Eka Kurniawan**

Read: “On Translating Eka Kurniawan” by Annie Tucker, Pen America “Beauty Is a Wound” (Excerpt) translated by Annie Tucker, Pen America. “The combination of magic, lore, and pivotal events reverberating through generations will prompt readers to draw parallels between Kurniawan's Halimunda and García Márquez's ...

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The epic novel Beauty Is a Wound combines history, satire, family tragedy, legend, humor, and romance in a sweeping polyphony. The beautiful Indo prostitute Dewi Ayu and her four daughters are beset by incest, murder, bestiality, rape, insanity, monstrosity, and the often vengeful undead. Kurniawan's gleefully grotesque ...

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