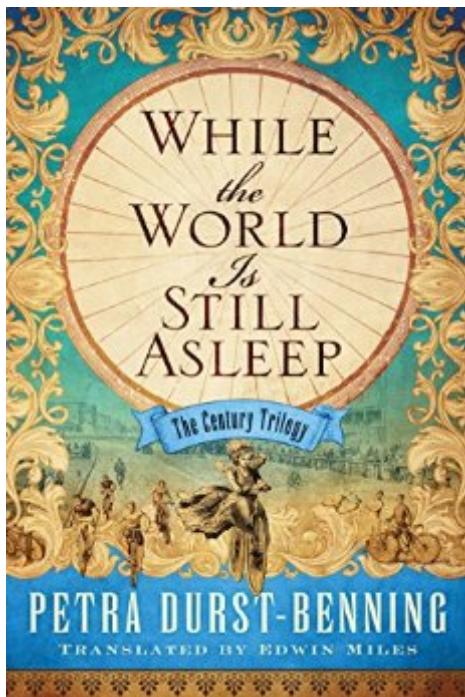


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While The World Is Still Asleep (The Century Trilogy Book 1)



Synopsis

The first in a new series from Petra Durst-Benning, the bestselling author of The Glassblower series. An inspiring historical tale of one woman risking it all for her dreams set in 1890s Berlin. After the tragic death of her little brother, Josephine travels to the Black Forest to heal. There she discovers a feeling of freedom astride a brand-new invention: the bicycle. The very idea of a woman on a bicycle is beyond taboo—“it is indecent and even illegal”—but Josephine will not be deterred. Back home, Josephine rides under cover of night, while the world is still asleep so as not to provoke a scandal. But Berlin’s streets are dangerous and the winds of change are blowing. Can Josephine’s fighting heart help her overcome the obstacles in her path? Will the passion she feels for this new adventure lead her toward true love?

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Summary One of the greatest favors I’ve done myself during my 63 years is to have taken up the practice of writing book reviews. How so? In my earlier years, I read only those books that caught my attention with a clever cover, a snappy first chapter and that attracted to my innate curiosity or sense of adventure. Period. Then, one day, for what I deemed politically important, I posted a

review at of a book by T. E. Lawrence titled 7 Pillars of Wisdom. That event, combined with Kindle and my overseas residence, all combined in some vast conspiracy to get me into reviewing. Eventually, I started reading books I'd never in a million years have read previously. I know I'm spewing forth quite a bit, but bear with me please. Eventually, thanks in part to Kindle Unlimited, I discovered a book with the title, The Glassblower. It also was written by the author of While the World is Still Asleep. I read and reviewed that charming book because of my father's career as a glassblower in an industrial plant in South Gate, California. I enjoyed the tale so much, that when I learned of this book, While the World is Still Asleep, I readily obtained a copy, so I could drift away to a place and time far away. This is written by a German writer, thence translated into English. It is about a woman coming of age during a time period (Late 19th, early 20th Centuries) when women were making a concerted effort to free themselves of bondage by men; the story is a drama with little to no action. In short, this book is precisely the opposite of my instinctual, some say typical male, search for information or entertainment. And yet. It is I who would have been the poorer for passing up on this wonderful drama.

First, let me say, I dislike historical fiction. I hate the over complicated words and just never have been able to connect with them. However, Ms. Petra Durst-Benning, is able to capture the heart and spirit of historical Germany and the women who helped to shape change, in such a way that it's not only easy to read, but also keeps you hanging on. I've read her previous series and fell in love with her writing right away. She has a gift for storytelling and character development that other authors only could dream to aspire to recreate. I was put off for awhile in reading the description, a bicycle? It sounded so boring. But, indeed I had not on iota of trouble delving inside the world she created inside the pages of this book. As with her trilogy, she created characters you fall immediately in love with and yearn to learn more. In While - Asleep, we meet Josephine and two of her childhood friends, Isabelle & Clara. As the story begins, Josephine is experiencing coughing fits. A kind and generous neighbor who has taken Josephine under her wing sees the potential ill effects that could arise from this condition and so she arranges for Josephine to go to a specialized lung treatment center to convalesce. It is a chance meeting during this stay that sets the stage for the plot of the book. Josephine happens upon a girl riding a strange contraption and soon becomes enchanted with the feeling of freedom she experiences whilst riding freely on this bicycle. Upon returning home she still is consumed with the desire to ride, soon she confides to her friend Clara about her adventures. Clara informs her that an old childhood friend's father has recently purchased a bicycle and they make plans to visit.

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