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Arthur Koestler
Arrow in the Blue



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Arrow in the Blue is the first volume of Arthur Koestler's autobiography. It covers the first 26 years of his life and ends with his joining the Communist Party in 1931, an event he felt to be second only in importance to his birth in shaping his destiny.

In the years before 1931, Arthur Koestler lived a tumultuous and varied existence. He was a member of the duelling fraternity at the University of Vienna; a collective farm worker in Galilee; a tramp and street vendor in Haifa; the editor of a weekly paper in Cairo; the foreign correspondent of the biggest continental newspaper chain in Paris and the Middle East; a science editor in Berlin; and a member of the North Pole expedition of the Graf Zeppelin.

Written with enormous zest, *joie de vivre* and frankness, *Arrow in the Blue* is a fascinating self-portrait of a remarkable young man at the heart of the events that shaped the twentieth century.

The second volume of Arthur Koestler's autobiography is *The Invisible Writing*.

Arrow In The Blue Details

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Author : Arthur Koestler

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From Reader Review Arrow In The Blue for online ebook

John says

Koestler is the twentieth century in trousers. Most of the big scary events in European twentieth century history seemed to bumped up against Koestler. He was there, saw that, met him. This is the first part of his autobiography and I have just jumped into the second part - entitled Invisible Writing.

Rick Skwiot says

A vivid, frank, substantive and perceptive accounting of Koestler's youth and early manhood (1905-1931) in Budapest, Vienna, Palestine and Berlin, told with wit, style and humor. He takes us into the center of economic, political and social upheavals that marked and marred the early 20th century and continue to affect the 21st. His telling of his conversion to communism, which he later rejected, while necessarily less entertaining than his childhood anecdotes does give firsthand insight into how people turn to closed systems and absolutism when they find the complex real world lacking.

Dana says

Kniha so silnejšími a slabšími miestami, ale tie silné stoja zato.

Koho zaujíma, ako sa v Európe žilo cca od 1910 do 1930, táto kniha ho môže dosť uspokojiť. Keby si autor odpustil obľasnú mizogýniu, bolo by to ešte lepšie.

Ali says

I would divide my life to before and after reading Koestler. Reading Koestler for the first time, just released, Koestler changed me to a totally different person. He was a man of a generation who witnessed final disaster of civil war in Spain and descending and demolishing of hope by communism in Soviet, while confronting the invasion of Fascism in Europe. He explained his generation's pain and frustration as a most brave loser, not sophisticated but very simple. The best description of the time is when he says; The sun of the age of reason was setting down. Arrow in the Blue together with The Invisible Writing are kind of autobiography of first 35 years of Koestler's life.

Amit says

Sometimes I think Koestler should be compulsory reading in mid-school, no later. What a better source for learning history. Koestler has lived many lives, with each life more interesting than most people. But that's not all. It's the way he investigates his political belief system with such a fine comb that it gives insights into the whole nature of dogma. And while in his case it was communism, I'm sure it's as relevant for capitalism,

objectivism, xyz-ism. It's sad that Koestler wrote about it in a time when the intellectuals were looking towards left. But to think that this book has hardly any reviews on Amazon, hell, it's not even available in paperback, is not just shocking, it's sad. For there is so much in Koestler that's relevant to us today, as it was then, and as it would be tomorrow.

This one is the first part of his biography covering his early life, and leaves us at a critical juncture -- to be continued in Invisible Writing, the second part of the saga that is Koestler's extraordinary life -- full of events, more exciting than many Hollywood action films. It's truly an amazing book, that ought to be read by many many more.

David says

Wonderful anecdotes, fascinating life story, and historically relevant. It doesn't hurt that he was a really weird guy as well

David says

This covers the first 26 years of Koestler's life 1905 to 1931 and he lived more in those 26 years than most people do in a life time. He comes across as taking life by the throat whenever it got too comfy. Always eager to forge out his own path. During those 1st 26 years we have some truly world changing events taking place. From his involvement with the very beginning of the Zionist movement to the joining of the communist party as the Nazi's took control of Germany. It can be a very funny book, Koestler is a great witty observer of life and himself, especially his poor Dad who was always being sucked in by crank inventor's none more so than a business man who tried to get him to invest in Radio-active toilet soap, although the odd thing was it was a great success owing to the fact that thankfully it wasn't radio-active and it was during WW1 when nobody had such luxuries.

One of his journalistic jobs took him to Iraq in the 1920's to interview King Feisal, in which the King stated "that central arabia is today more than ever a country of ignorant fanatics".

He is another creative person who loved solitude and understood the term oceanic feeling although he didn't write any books in this period the building blocks take shape throughout these formative years to which he himself states that he was emotionally immature. To sum up this book is a great historical journey through Koestler's early life and the changing events in the world of science, politics and culture and is a fascinating read throughout.

Lysergius says

The first volume of Koestler's autobiography covers the first 26 years of his life and culminates with his joining the Communist party in 1931.

This is a fascinating account of a most extraordinary life. From penniless lemonade seller in Palestine to

editor of leading German newspapers and everything in between. Set against the background of the Weimar Republic and the rise of the Nazis, Koestler's account of his formative years is a curious mixture of diffidence and confidence, as befits one who suffered from chronic shyness.

Rich in fascinating descriptive touches and wild adventure, a Zeppelin flight to the North Pole for example, this volume whets the reader's thirst for the remaining volumes.

Varmint says

Koestler was one of the few authors who could boast of having had his books burned by the Nazis and the Soviets.

Lead one of the great lives of the twentieth century. He started as a young journalist, and part time communist spy, in the middle of the Spanish Civil War. His faith in the party began to crack soon after. This is the first volume of his autobiography, He played an important part in every ideological, and a few of the real, battles of the age.

he should be ranked with Oriana Fallaci, Whittaker Chambers, George Orwell, and Merian Cooper.

loafingcactus says

The copy I've got hasn't been checked out of the library for 14 years, which is disheartening. As an autobiography it wasn't brilliant, and I was expecting life-changing brilliance, but it was very very good. And the guy had an extraordinarily interesting life. The book is a page-turner simply on its value as memoir.

Alejandro Perez-Prat says

Arthur Koestler vivió muy de cerca ciertos acontecimientos de nuestro siglo de tanta trascendencia histórica, política y social, que esta obra bien podría haberse extendido unos cientos de páginas más. "Flecha en el azul", abarca desde su nacimiento hasta el momento en que toma la decisión de ingresar en el partido comunista alemán. Koestler nos relata su infancia y adolescencia, y, lo que es más relevante, el despertar de sus sentimientos políticos, cuya solidez y compromiso tuvieron una importancia definitiva en su trayectoria vital. El primero de esos sentimientos fue un fervoroso sionismo que lo llevó a dejar sus estudios para intentar ingresar infructuosamente en un kibutz y dedicar su vida a trabajar la tierra en Palestina. Después de su breve estancia en la colonia judía -no superó el periodo de prueba por el que debían pasar todos los candidatos-, vivió sucesivamente en Haifa, Tel Aviv y Jerusalén, ejerciendo el periodismo, y ya de vuelta a Europa, en París y Berlín. Allí llegó a ocupar el cargo de director de la sección científica en uno de los diarios más respetados de Alemania hasta su ya mencionado ingreso en el partido comunista, no sin antes haber tomado parte, en calidad de ilustre informador, en una expedición internacional al Polo Norte, ni más ni menos que en un Zeppelin.

Jo says

Quite compulsive reading and from a fascinating perspective. A personal tale that gives an insight into how the early 20th Century social and political currents appeared to one, politically aware mind. Funny, self-deprecating and inspirational.

Maurizio Manco says

"Colui le cui opinioni e convinzioni sono completamente libere da inconse parzialità, scagli la prima pietra." (p. 108)

"Possiamo accrescere le nostre conoscenze, ma non possiamo ridurle; nessun chirurgo del cervello può ripristinare la verginità di un'illusione." (p. 288)

John says

Koestler provides a very honest autobiography (part one), of an eventful life up to his joining the Communist Party of Germany at the end of 1931. He is a very good writer, intelligent, neurotic and not particularly amiable. He openly and effectively shares the cultural forces and angst of the first third of the 20th century in Europe and explains what led him to Communism. In part two he will explain his break.

Pontus Ridderstedt says

Rolig och annorlunda biografi, självrannsakande och skarpt skrivet. Och på detta ett spännande livshistoria, både idemässigt, historiskt och geografiskt
