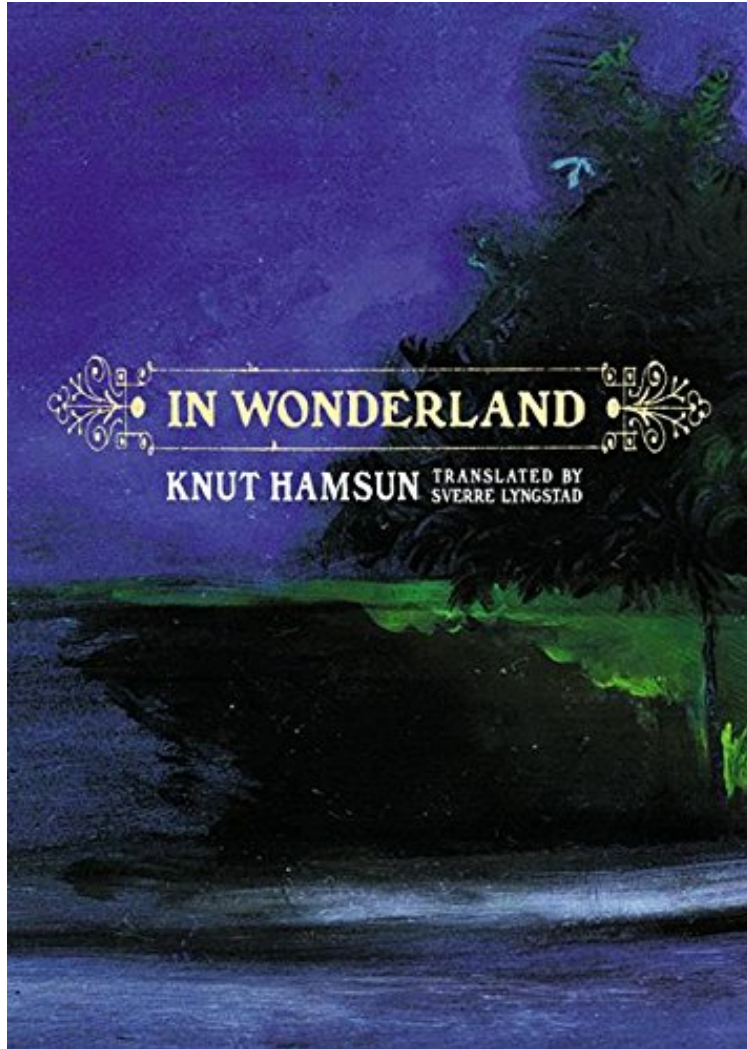


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In Wonderland

Knut Hamsun

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Knut Hamsun : In Wonderland before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised In Wonderland:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Beyond a Travel BookBy Randy KeehnI have read a number of books by Knut Hamsun who is certainly an interesting writer. Recently I read several accounts of his travels in America where he freely expressed his opinions of the USA and various aspects of its' culture circa the 1880's. He has a keen sense of observation and a unique perspective of his fellow man. This is true in his book "In Wonderland" where he details an account of his travels in Russia just before the turn of the previous century. He details a lot of interesting observations from food to ethnic groups to travel accommodations. It comes across as a very interesting trip (with his "companion") and an interesting look at a world that has changed greatly since his visit. That look at a world

that no longer exists is the real greatness of "In Wonderland". Hamsun was a gregarious individual with freely expressed opinions that will (or, at least, SHOULD) ruffle some feathers. His disdainful comments about Jews keep popping up. However, looking past that you'll find he is disdainful of others as well. The bedbugs kept me from wishing I was along for the ride but I was able to appreciate the scenery nonetheless thanks to Hamsun's candid literary skills. 11 of 12 people found the following review helpful. Another Hamsun Classic By Steven Larsen Hamsun writes of his travels through Russia, or more accurately the Caucus region. Hamsun as always combines his sharp perceptual powers with honesty and humor. I was surprised how favorably Hamsun wrote of the mountain people, both Muslims and Christians. He seemed taken with the landscape and the way these people dealt with the harshness of life in this area, their fitness and fatalism. Along the way, Hamsun encounters commoners, police, armed villagers, beggars, oil drillers, peasants and nobles. This is especially interesting reading given the importance this region now has geopolitically. Altogether, a fascinating bit of travel writing, worthwhile for Hamsun lovers and anyone looking for an easy adventure travel read. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Interesting insight into the man... By M. Leduc All in all not my favorite Hamsun book, but this can be read with enjoyment like any of his novels due to his engaging style. I'll admit that at some times in this book that Hamsun comes off as a bit of a pompous jerk, but one has to consider at the time that he was a young literary star with *four* great books under his belt. (Hunger, Mysteries, Pan, and Victoria) so I can forgive him a little bit of arrogance. Another reviewer alluded to the anti-semitism in the novel. To me it was confined to the beginning and was a tad jarring to be sure considering his rep, however not intrusive enough to make me discount the overall value of this work. At other points he is equally dismissive of America and shows a general xenophobia that is fortunately laced with heavy doses of irony. Yep, good old irony. All in all this is the book where you most see Hamsun laid bare, so if you are seriously interested in him and his work I would definitely say it's worth a read.

First published one hundred years ago, and now translated into English for the first time by noted Norwegian scholar Sverre Lyngstad, *In Wonderland* is a diaristic account of a trip Hamsun took to Russia at the turn of the century. This detailed travelogue is a rich and loving portrait of the people and culture of Russia, and is filled with the trademark style and keen observations of the author of such classics as *Hunger*, *Mysteries*, and *Growth of the Soil*. *In Wonderland* is unlike any other book written by Hamsun, and offers not only an intimate glimpse into the mind of the Nobel Prize winning author at his unguarded best, but a rare view into a Russia that would soon vanish in the fire of revolution.