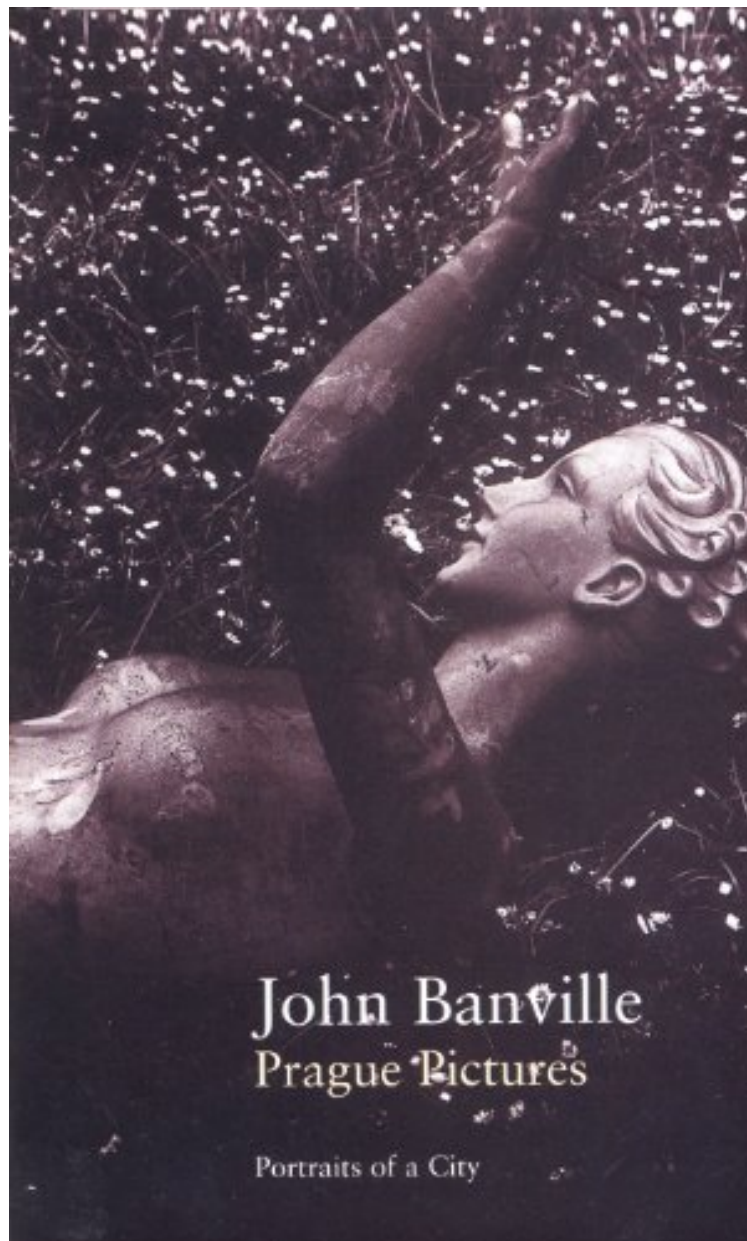


[Free] Prague Pictures: Portraits of a City (Writer the City)

## Prague Pictures: Portraits of a City (Writer the City)

*Von John Banville*

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Produktinformation - Verkaufsrang: #1046198 in eBooks Veröffentlicht am: 2010-12-15 Erscheinungsdatum: 2010-12-15 File Name: B004LWZULM | File size: 43.Mb

**Von John Banville : Prague Pictures: Portraits of a City (Writer the City)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Prague Pictures: Portraits of a City (Writer the City):

Kundenrezensionen Hilfreichste Kundenrezensionen 0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich.

Groartige Prag-Einstimmung Von Dr. Rosemarie P. Ein Reiseführer ganz anderer Art, ohne langweilige Hhen- und andere Maangaben, dafr aber Einblick in die Geschichte und Atmosphre dieser Stadt. Hier wird von der Vergangenheit in die Gegenwart und umgekehrt gesprungen. Aus meiner Sicht eine groartige Einsitmmung auf einen Pragbesuch. Leider gibt es dieses Buch nur in Englisch.

Kurzbeschreibung Prague is the magic capital of Europe. Since the days of Emperor Rudolf II, 'devotee of the stars and cultivator of the spagyric art', who in the late 1500s summoned alchemists and magicians from all over the world to his castle on Hradcany hill, it has been a place of mystery and intrigue. Wars, revolutions, floods, the imposition of Soviet communism, or even the depredations of the tourist boom after the 'Velvet Revolution' of 1989, could not destroy the unique atmosphere of this beautiful, proud and melancholy city on the Vltava. John Banville traces Prague's often tragic history and portrays the people who made it, the emperors and princes, geniuses and charlatans, heroes and scoundrels, and paints a portrait of the Prague of today, revelling in its newfound freedoms, eager to join the European Community and at the same time suspicious of what many Praguers see as yet another totalitarian takeover. He writes of his first visit to the city, in the depths of the Cold War, when he engaged in a spot of art smuggling, and of subsequent trips there, of the people he met, the friends he made, the places he came to know. From Booklist Here is the latest installment in Bloomsbury's fascinating Writer in the City series, which matches well-known writers with cities with which they are intimately familiar. Banville has not written a guidebook but rather, in his own words, "a handful of recollections, variations on a theme"--snapshots, if you like, of the city's past and present. The book begins with the author's first visit to Prague, during the cold war, but as we go deeper into the book, we also go deeper into the city's history. Banville flicks so effortlessly between past and present that Prague soon appears as a collage, effectively lifting the city's rich and visible past out of time and bringing it to life once again, as the author visits the birthplace of Franz Kafka or steps inside a cathedral whose construction was begun in 1344. While most travel memoirs clearly distinguish between the way a place is today and the way it used to be, Banville's perspective is somewhat different. This, he says, is Prague, past and present, the way it has always been. David Pitt Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved Pressestimmen 'In each one of these little gems, a top-notch writer reveals the secrets of a city they love' Red