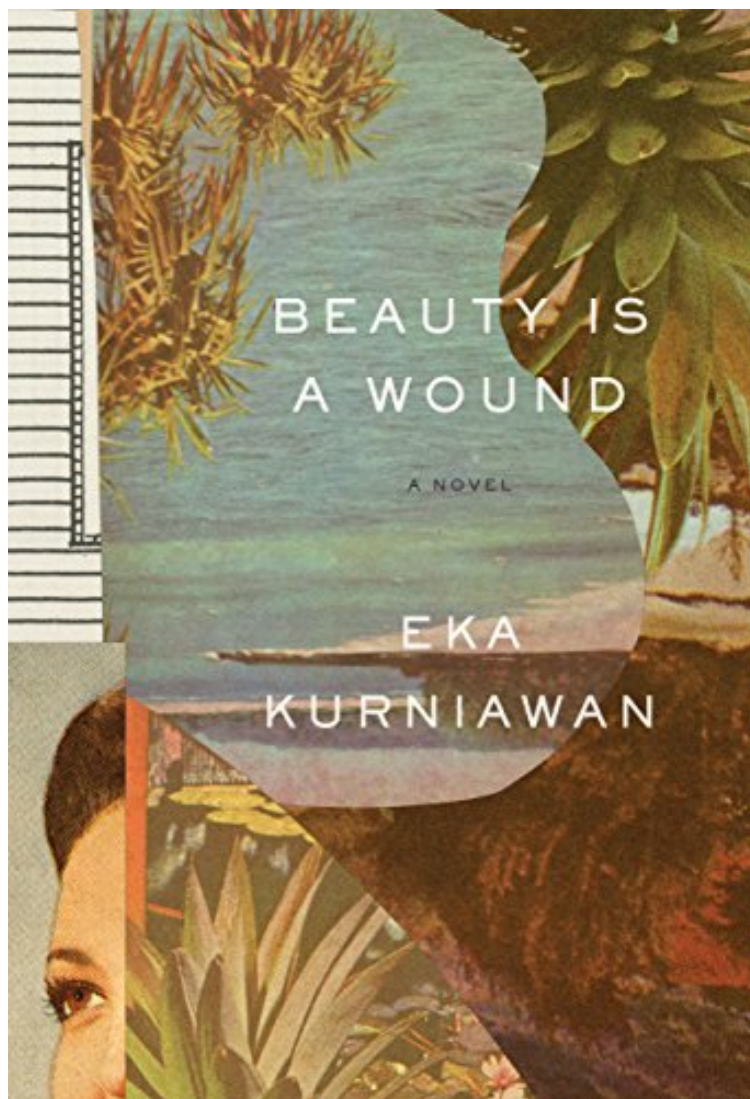


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Beauty Is a Wound



Par Eka Kurniawan
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Description :

Presentation de l'diteurThe 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. Kurniawans gleefully grotesque hyperbole functions as a scathing critique of his young nations 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 Suhartos despotic rule. Beauty Is a Wound astonishes from its opening line: One afternoon on a weekend in May, Dewi Ayu rose from her grave after being dead for twenty-one years.... Drawing on local sourcesfolk tales and the all-night shadow puppet plays, with their bawdy wit and epic scopeand inspired by Melville and Gogol, Kurniawans distinctive voice brings something luscious yet astringent to contemporary

literature. Revue de presse "Kurniawan does not merely traffic skillfully in magic realism; his Halimunda like Garca Mrquez's Macondo and Faulkner's Yoknapatawpha County lets him show how the currents of history catch, whirl, carry away and sometimes drown people." -- The New York Times "An arresting portrait of Indonesia's struggle for nationhood, delights in obscenity: no topic is spared from its bloodthirsty brand of satire." --The New Yorker "...an unforgettable, all-encompassing epic of Indonesian history, magic, and murder...The combination of magic, lore, and pivotal events reverberating through generations will prompt readers to draw parallels between Kurniawan's Halimunda and Garca Mrquez s Macondo. But Kurniawan's characters are all destined for despair and sorrow, and the result is a darker and more challenging read than One Hundred Years of Solitude. An astounding, momentous book." --Publishers Weekly "Without a doubt the most original, imaginatively profound, and elegant writer of fiction in Indonesia today: its brightest and most unexpected meteorite. Pramoedya Ananta Toer has found a successor." -- The New Left "The howling masterpiece of 2015 must surely be Eka Kurniawan's Beauty is a Wound. It is - I mean it - a howl, an outrage, and a sheer burst of particular talent. It is the kind of thing you want fiction to do, and the kind of thing you want to imagine it is doing...Kurniawan sharpens the story of Indonesia with an energy that is rare." -- Chigozie Obioma, Financial Times Best Books of 2015 "Eka Kurniawan's first novel Beauty Is a Wound has already been compared to Garca Mrquez and Rushdie...his books are so distinct and memorable." --The Guardian Presentation de l'diteur 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. Kurniawans gleefully grotesque hyperbole functions as a scathing critique of his young nations 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 Suhartos despotic rule. Beauty Is a Wound astonishes from its opening line: One afternoon on a weekend in May, Dewi Ayu rose from her grave after being dead for twenty-one years.... Drawing on local sources folk tales and the all-night shadow puppet plays, with their bawdy wit and epic scope and inspired by Melville and Gogol, Kurniawans distinctive voice brings something luscious yet astringent to contemporary literature.