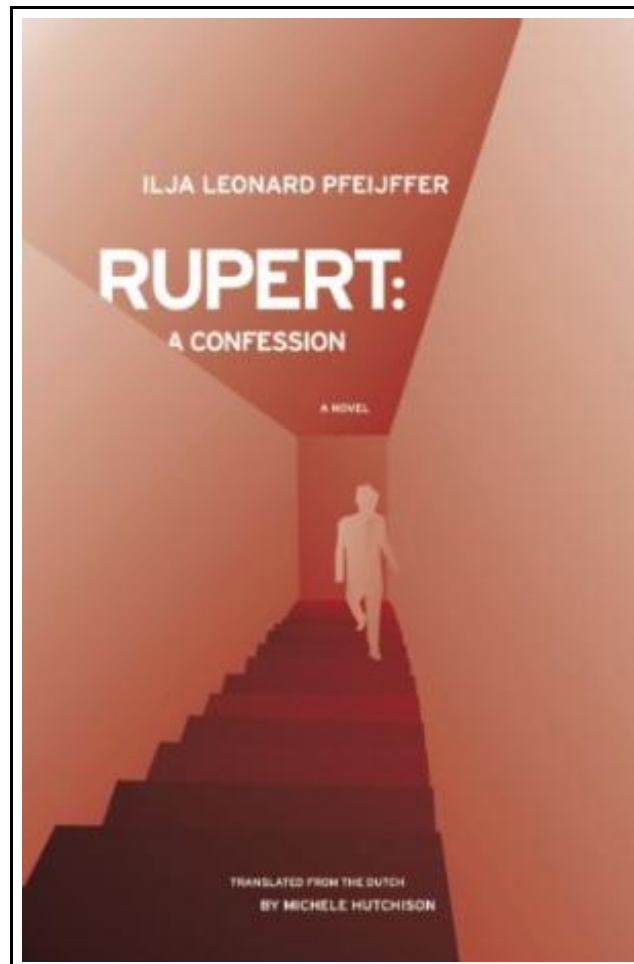


Rupert: a Confession



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Reviews

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(Ms. Hannah Lowe)

RUPERT: A CONFESSION



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Open Letter. Hardback. Book Condition: new. BRAND NEW, Rupert: a Confession, Ilja Leonard Pfeijffer, Accused of a terrible crime, Rupert constructs an elegant argument that--at least in his mind--exonerates him. His imagined defense is by turns shockingly honest and incredibly funny, pulling the reader (and potential jury) in two different directions. Rupert's rants--about insults, about how to pick up women, about men who wear sweaters--are incredibly entertaining and compelling, yet, at the same time, the reader knows--both from his strange anecdotes and the way he presents himself--that Rupert is unhinged, that he's trying to deceive himself along with everyone else, that his defense rests on its presentation, not on its content. Rupert's speech is also structured by an ancient rhetorical technique in which an argument is remembered and related by associating different pieces with specific locations. As he organizes his defense around various squares and apartments and other buildings, the reader is taken on a virtual tour, visiting the spots in the city that are most integral to Rupert's psyche. Rupert: A Confession is a brilliantly composed monologue that fully exposes the inner workings of its speaker's mind, despite all the misdirection and amusing anecdotes he employs. Bringing to mind Neil LaBute's *In the Company of Men*, the novel is offensive, funny, and compelling all at once, and is a vivid example of contemporary Dutch literature. The art of the insult is a skill that few can master. Most people yell out a few vulgar and insulting names, adopt an angry look, and think that's the end of it. But, like every art, it requires highly specific skills and talents, and many people underestimate that. First of all, the most successful insult requires the creation of an unbridgeable distance. Raising your voice has the opposite effect in this respect. The most...



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