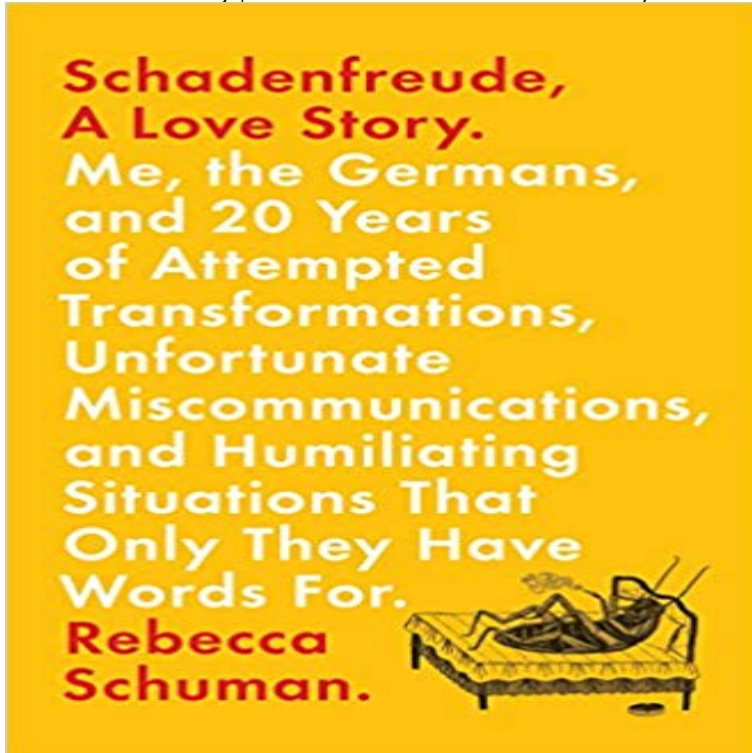


# Schadenfreude, A Love Story: Me, the Germans, and 20 Years of Attempted Transformations, Unfortunate Miscommunications, and Humiliating Situations That Only They Have Words For



This book is a wild and wonderful ride. Your guide, Rebecca Schuman, is a super-smart and very funny person who writes brilliantly about Germany and Germans (who are not what you think) and being young and insane and life in general and just read it, OK?-Dave Barry You know that feeling you get watching a pompous jerk whine into his cell as hes booted out of a restaurant? When the elevator doors slide shut just before your sadistic boss can step in beside you? Theres a word for this mix of malice and joy, and the Germans (of course) invented it. Its Schadenfreude, deriving pleasure from others misfortune, and with Slate columnist Rebecca Schuman, the Teutons have a stern, self-satisfied blast at her expense. Rebecca is just your average chronically misunderstood 90s teenager, with a passion for Pearl Jam and Ethan Hawke circa Reality Bites, until two men walk into her high school Civics class: Dylan Gellner, with deep brown eyes and an even deeper soul, and Franz Kafka, hitching a ride in Dylans backpack. These two men are the axe to the frozen sea that is Rebeccas spirit, and what flows forth is a passion for all things German (even though, as everyone is quick to remind her, Kafka wasnt German at all). Dreamy Dylan might leave the second he gets accepted to a better college than Rebecca does, but Kafka is forever, and in pursuit of this elusive love she will spend two decades stuttering and stumbling through broken German sentences, trying to win over a people who dont want to be bothered. At once a snapshot of a young woman finding herself, and a country slowly starting to stitch itself back together after nearly a century of war (both hot and cold), Schadenfreude, A Love Story is an exhilarating, hilarious, and yes, maybe even heartfelt memoir proving that sometimes the truest loves play hard to get.

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