

# [PDF] HHhH: A Novel

Sam Taylor, Laurent Binet - pdf download free book

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#### Books Details:

Title: HHhH: A Novel  
Author: Sam Taylor, Laurent Binet  
Released: 2013-07-23  
Language:  
Pages: 336  
ISBN: 1250033349  
ISBN13: 978-1250033345  
ASIN: 1250033349

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#### Description:

#### Review

"HHhH blew me away. Binet's style fuses it all together: a neutral, journalistic honesty sustained with a fiction writer's zeal and story-telling instincts. It's one of the best historical novels I've ever come across."—Bret Easton Ellis, author of *American Psycho* and *Less Than Zero*

"Unsurpassable... Told with elegance and grace... A magnificent book."—Mario Vargas Llosa, winner of the Nobel Prize in Literature

"Brings a raw truth to an extraordinary act of resistance...A literary tour de force...A gripping novel that brings us closer to history as it really happened."—Alan Riding, *The New York Times Book Review*

"Binet has threaded his novel with a contemporary story, which is the drama of the book's own making.... The tone is clever, witty, casually postmodern....Captivating."—James Wood, *The New Yorker*

"*HHhH* is a startling novel....Who would expect a postmodern exploration of the limits of historical fiction to be a page-turner? But it is, absolutely....Fascinating."—Madeline Miller, NPR

"Marvelous...Pulsing with life, lit by a wisp of dry humor, [and] fully imagined."—Carolyn Kellogg, *Los Angeles Times*

"One of the best and most original new novels I've read in years....*HHhH* is paced like a thriller, in which the endgame is the fate of the world."—Mike Fischer, *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*

"[An] extraordinary first novel...*HHhH*, translated from the French by Sam Taylor, charts Heydrich's rise through the Nazi ranks and Germany's march to war...[to] the training in Britain of the Czech and Slovak assassins, Jan Kubiš and Jozef Gabčík, who parachuted into the country in December 1941 to kill Heydrich. Ample material for a decent espionage thriller, but Binet, 'a slave to my scruples,' makes something altogether less commonplace of it. His fidelity to the historical record, and obsessive urge to analyse those moments where surmise replaces fact, makes *HHhH* as much about the technical and moral processes of writing a historical novel as it is a historical novel...This unusual method results in a literary triumph...Using short, punchy chapters, Binet keeps his story haring along. The book's final section, which recounts the assassination and subsequent manhunt in minute detail, is a masterpiece of tension, and its closing pages are extremely moving. Very few page-turners come as smart and original as this."—Chris Power, *The Times* (London)

"[Binet] knows how to wrangle powerful moments from history."—Susannah Meadows, *The New York Times*

"Every now and then a piece of work comes along that undermines the assumptions upon which all previous works have been built...These pieces of art complicate the genre for everyone that follows. *A Heartbreaking Work of Staggering Genius* did it for the memoir, *Reservoir Dogs* for action films, and now *HHhH* does it for the historical novel. Laurent Binet's brilliantly translated debut deconstructs the process of fiction writing in the face of the brute reality of facts...Binet's [*HHhH*] resets the path of the historical novel. He has a bright, bright future."—David Annand, *The Telegraph*

"Ingenious and inventive... *HHhH* [is a] knockout blow in the boxing match of genre-defying literature. Binet steps between styles with ease... [and] has written a tale of Heydrich to defy most academic study. Moreover, Binet has managed to engage. His description is playful and joyous, at times even wrongfully celebratory, but always, always surprisingly on form. As a deserving winner of the Prix Goncourt, *HHhH* is a fantastic read. As a dynamic assault on the genres of contemporary writing, *HHhH* must join that coterie of celebrated titles: it is unique."—Charles J. Haynes, *California Literary Review*

"An impressive debut...*HHhH* is fascinating not only because of the subject matter, but also because of the immense amount of detail Binet includes. The book transports and enraptures. It also impresses upon the reader the legacy of that history. His reflections on how to write the book with

thoroughness and integrity and the effect of the project on his life are examples of how important the subject and the consequences of the history are to him. Heydrich's life is not as documented as those of other high ranking Nazi officers. By researching and publishing *HHhH*, Binet reminds the reader that history has myriads of layers, but that they are all relevant in our contemporary world."—Ashley McNelis, *Bomb*

"[*HHhH* is] quirky, clever...Binet makes a very perceptive and informed recording angel, one with an exceptionally clear and unfussy prose style (rendered extremely well by the translator, Sam Taylor). It doesn't hurt that he has triple-A premium material, but Binet doesn't push too hard to give the events a meaning. He lets them be the tragedy that they are, and as such they're devastating."—Lev Grossman, *Time.com*

"[*HHhH*] is as much a meditation on fictionalizing history—on factual truth versus a more expansive definition of truth, on the obligations and the agendas of writers—as it is a story about an assassination...Binet accomplishes something paradoxical. By clinging to the historical record and a very strict definition of truth, he transcends the barest facts and creates a work with its own heft and depth... [He] has produced the only essential piece of World War II fiction in years."—Jessica Crispin, *Barnes & Noble Review*

"[*HHhH*] is utterly compelling and ruthlessly fascinating."—Laurence Mackin, *Irish Times*

"A breezily charming novel, with a thrilling story that also happens to be true, by a gifted young author...[Binet] marshals and deploys his materials with exceptional dramatic skill...By the time you reach the book's devastating finale, it's this discreet storytelling mastery... that leaves the deepest impression."—James Lasdun, *The Guardian*

"A cracking book... With its double-narrative and its authorial playfulness, *HHhH* reads in places like a stylistic homage to WG Sebald or Italo Calvino."—Ruadhán MacCormaic, *Irish Times*

"That *HHhH* is so devastatingly brilliant is testament to both its originality and ambition. In fact, it would not be going too far to say it is a modern masterpiece."—Rob Minshull, *ABC (Brisbane)*

"*HHhH* triumphs precisely because it not only delicately, and sometimes grippingly, depicts a major historical moment, but because it manages to depict the unique challenges of 21st-century remembrance."—Michael Lapointe, *The Globe and Mail*

"*HHhH* is brilliant." —Michel Basilières, *The Toronto Star*

"[A] remarkable first novel... Binet has created a rare thing: a book that tells us stories, mixing scholarship with suspense, while simultaneously laying bare and critiquing the book's construction. It's a difficult approach, which makes the enjoyment of reading it all the more striking."—Matthew Tiffany, *Plain-Dealer (Cleveland)*

"There are not enough books that blend the profound and the entertaining. This is one and it comes in a sparkling translation by novelist Sam Taylor."—John Gardner, *New Zealand Herald*

"An extraordinary first novel... A literary triumph... The book's final section, which recounts the assassination and subsequent manhunt in minute detail, is a masterpiece of tension, and its closing pages are extremely moving. Very few page-turners come as smart and original as this."—*The Times (London)*

"This is mesmerizing stuff; history brought to chilling, potent life."—Leyla Senai, *The Independent*

"I really don't know how to praise this book further than to say that it changed my conception of the possibilities of literature. I cannot recommend this book more highly than saying, despite the cliché, that it is an actual must-read, both for its important content, but as importantly, for its avant-garde nature as it pushes forward the boundaries of historical fiction. (From a different lens, it represents the avant garde of teaching history. I can't imagine anyone who would read this book and consequently not feel interested in the essential questions of historiography i.e. what can we truly know about history.) Go out, find this book, devour it, and prepare to find yourself changed, in ways you could not expect."—Joe Winkler, *Vol. 1 Brooklyn*

"A brilliantly profound debut about the assassination of the architect of the Holocaust... I found myself turning pages faster and faster while I read about the two men who parachuted into the countryside and slowly closed in on Heydrich, even though I knew exactly what was about to happen. Maybe you can't write a successful novel about the Holocaust. But, turns out, you can write a wonderful book—let's call it a novel—about the impossibility of writing about the Holocaust."—Malcolm Jones, *The Daily Beast*

"Riveting... [HHhH is] exuberant and breathless and wonderful throughout."—Weston Cutter, *Kenyon Review*

"HHhH is a highly original piece of work, at once charming, moving, and gripping."—Martin Amis, author of *The Pregnant Widow*

"A wonderful, ambitious book, and a triumph of translation."—Colum McCann, National Book Award-winning author of *Let the Great World Spin*

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