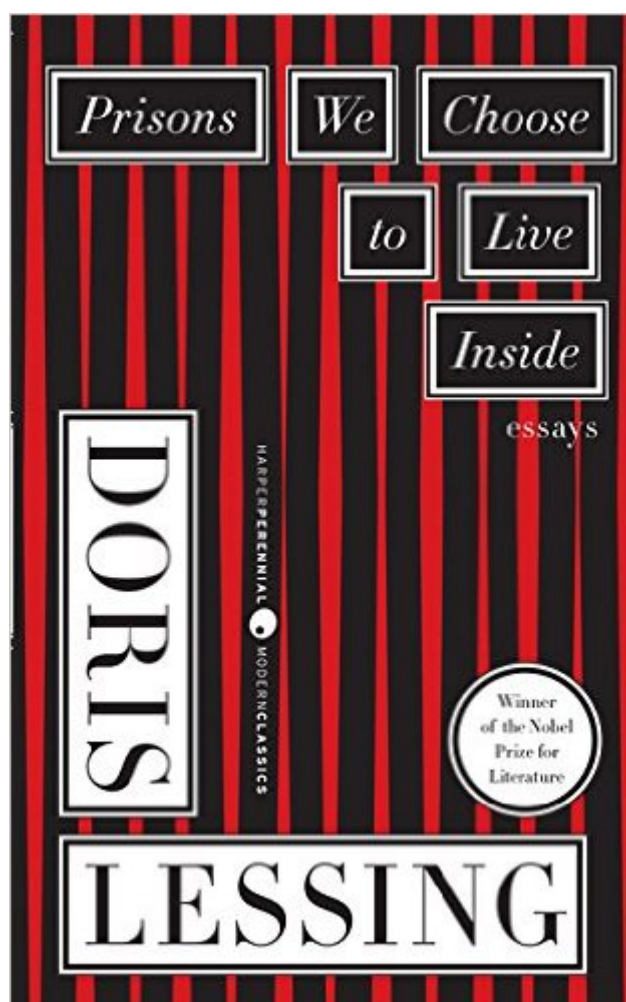


The book was found

Prisons We Choose To Live Inside



Synopsis

In this perceptive collection of essays, Doris Lessing addresses directly the prime questions before us all: how to think for ourselves, how to understand what we know, how to pick a path in a world deluged with opinions and information, and how to look at our society and ourselves with fresh eyes.

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars Â Â See all reviews Â (40 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

This book contains a series of 5 lectures given by Doris Lessing, sponsored by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation in 1985. Their basic thesis is that groups of human beings behave in certain predictable ways under certain circumstances, and that those who value liberty and individual thought could make the world better by doing 2 things: 1. Learn about the many studies that have been done about group behaviour, brain-washing, & so on. Governments, advertisers, & others in a position to make use of this knowledge to manipulate us are certainly doing so. We should make use of it to avoid being manipulated. 2. Hold on to cool reflection & individual thought, despite all the pressures to conform, adhere to dogma of various kinds, party lines, & so on. Many of the ideas presented here are also expressed in Lessing's novels. Better expressed, in my opinion, but it's certainly interesting & instructive to have them all together in one book. The trouble is, this book is the equivalent of an academic thesis or scholarly study, yet without any of the documentation or foundation which would take it out of the realm of individual reflection or opinion. If one wants to look up any of the studies she mentions, one is on one's own, as there is no bibliography, no citations,

no references, etc. Lessing's views are very interesting, but don't mistake these essays for social science. Doris Lessing is a brilliant thinker & keen social & historical observer. She has been a first-hand witness to or participant in much of what has happened politically in the 20th century. She is superbly self-educated, but she is not a sociologist or a historian. She is not even a high school graduate.

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