

Der Steppenwolf (German Edition)

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Harry Haller ist in das kulturlose und unmenschliche Inferno unserer prunkenden und
ermenden Gegenwart vorgedrungen und steht mit seinem Begriff von Menschenwert
einsam außerhalb der bürgerlichen Gesellschaft. Seine Sehnsucht kennt eine unerreichbare
Wirklichkeit: seine Verzweiflung treibt ihn zuweilen in die erreichbare andere zurück. Lust
und Enttäuschung ihres Daseins führen in seinem Herzen und Hirn einen Kampf, an dem die
Zivilisation Europas mit ihrem ganzen Bestände und Befunde teilnimmt. Oskar Loerke
Hermann Hesse was born in Germany in 1877 and later became a citizen of Switzerland. As
a Western man profoundly affected by the mysticism of Eastern thought, he wrote many
novels, stories, and essays that bear a vital spiritual force that has captured the
imagination and loyalty of many generations of readers. His works include Beneath the
Wheel, Narcissus and Goldmund, and The Glass Bead Game. He was awarded the Nobel
Prize in Literature in 1946. Hermann Hesse died in 1962.

Hesse's philosophical novel about a loner who feels divided in his soul and alienated from
life was a cult classic of the 1960s' counterculture. Peter Weller's voice is dry, deep, almost
harsh, and through much of the book, his tone is cutting, sardonic, even angry. That's a
fitting take on the protagonist, Haller, but it's too much, and the tone would be better with
some variation. Weller's voice softens when Haller interacts with others, and in some of the
dialogue he brings out a rhythmic lilt that is quite engaging. While a bit uneven, by and
large, Weller does this dreamlike yet dour book justice. W.M. AudioFile 2008, Portland,
Maine

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