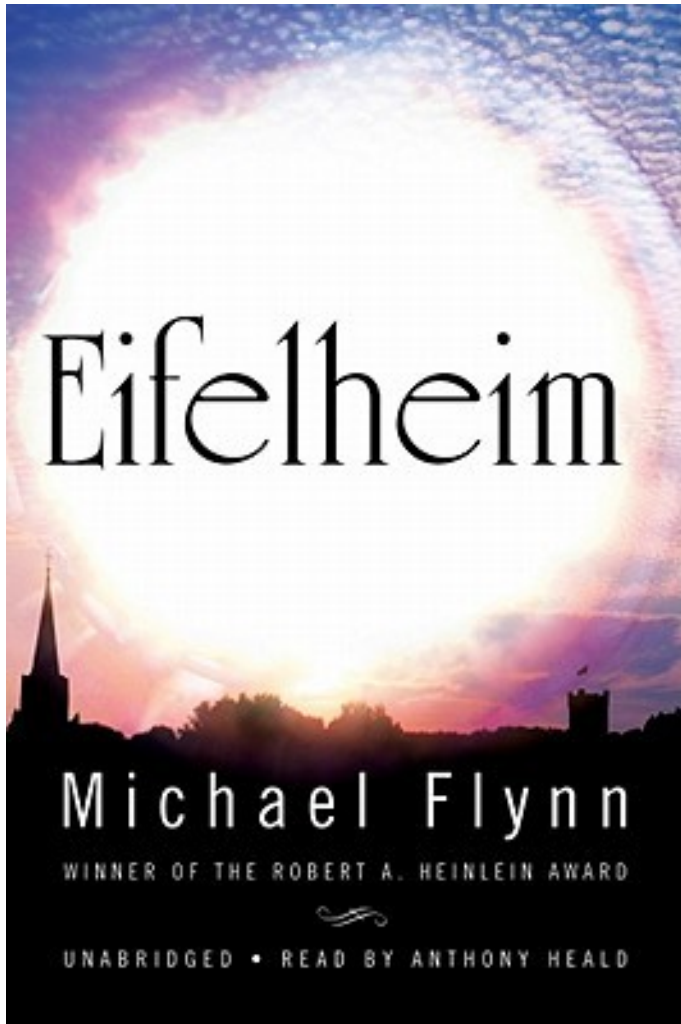

Michael Flynn

Eifelheim



Title: Eifelheim

Author: Michael Flynn

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Language: English

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Description

When Tom, a historian, and his girlfriend Sharon, a theoretical physicist, become interested in a small German town that disappeared 600 years ago, they discover that the village was the site of an interstellar space ship crash.

Insightful reviews

Gordon: In a word, wow. This book was not at all what I expected - it was far more. True, at times the science fiction element receded far into the background. True, the discussions on "natural philosophy" (science) in medieval terms occasionally went on a bit too long, as did other descriptions of fourteenth century life. And true, in the "modern" portion of the story, one character's frequent use of (untranslated) phrases borrowed from other languages was more than a bit annoying. But these flaws pale beside a narrative that holds the reader right to the very end, even though the essential nature of the "mystery" is clear almost from the start and the story's end is also plain well before it arrives. More than anything, this book stands out for its emotional depth: I have rarely been moved as much by a piece of conventional fiction, and never by sci fi. As one of the contemporary characters wonders at the end, would we ourselves be able to welcome stranded aliens with open arms, or would we be part of the crowd railing about demons? Stranded ourselves among those who think and act so differently, would we have the courage to carry on, or even to succor our one-time persecutors in their own time of distress? *Eifelheim* is yet another reminder that "human" values are universal - and of just how wide a truly universal embrace needs to be.

Ben Babcock: A blend of semi-hard, semi-sweet science fiction with historical fiction, *Eifelheim* comes across as intelligent yet smug. Michael Flynn concocts a "perfect storm" of coincidences, particularly for the two present-day main characters, to carry his narrative. While every story will rely on coincidence in some fashion or another, *Eifelheim's* plot resembles a meticulously constructed house of cards built in the windiest location on Earth (a quick Google search turns up no consensus on this point).

The present-day chapters are tiresome, their characters flat and largely uninteresting. Flynn hints at relationship strife between Tom and Sharon when Tom begins spending more time with a librarian, Judy, who joins him on a quest to research the mysterious disappearance of *Eifelheim*. However, there's no resolution to what I considered a very interesting aspect of the plot. In the epilogue, Tom and Judy visit the site of *Eifelheim*, with only a passing mention that Sharon is "busy" elsewhere. Both characters seemed too self-absorbed to ever have entered this relationship in the first place--not that we would know about that, since Flynn provides scant details on their pasts.

In contrast, the historical setting of *Eifelheim* (then known as Oberhochwald) and its protagonist, Pastor Dietrich, are at least more complex. The conflict over Oberhochwalds unexpected extraterrestrial tenants becomes tense and heated toward the end, as the Black Death descends upon the village. Dietrich's fondness for logic and dialectic invoked fond reminders of [The Name of the Rose including Postscript to the Name of the Rose!](#)

Both the contemporary and the historical segments share a common flaw: the entire book is too didactic for my tastes. Now, the aforementioned *The Name of the Rose* was also didactic. It, however, was carried by a truly interesting mystery. The "mystery" of Eifelheim is mysterious only for the dullest reader. As such, all we're left to observe is the book's smugness as coincidences converge upon Dietrich in Oberhochwald and Tom and Sharon in the present.

Flynn's treatment of science fiction is supposedly "hard", but its edges are kind of squishy. I don't begrudge him the squishiness. He attempts to mate physics with medieval natural philosophy--it's an interesting comparison undercut by the weakness in the story and its characters. Those interested in logic and medieval philosophy are better off reading *The Name of the Rose*. [Arthur C. Clarke](#) has a treasury of short stories, and some of them include pre-20th century first contact, if I remember correctly. In short, *Eifelheim* is far from a terrible book, but there are many other books that do more justice to its themes.

Sarah: A clever concept, but something about the style put me off. The pacing was odd, and there were too many characters (and many of them with multiple or similar names). The scenes set in the present, which apparently served as the original novella, featured two characters whose relationship seemed forced. They spoke to each other in intellectual jargon that just didn't feel real. The untranslated foreign phrases - a conceit that was charming in [Julian Comstock: A Story of 22nd-Century America](#) - felt like an affectation. An interesting read, but not one that will linger.

Whitaker: First of all, a shout out of because of Ceridwen who, in reviewing this ebook on Goodreads, brought it to me. It was once a very good evaluate BTW and also you should still learn it too. We don't usually speak of the minor characters in novels: the walk-on elements with a number of traces and no names. I believe for this review, I simply are looking to specialize in facet characters. They don't seem to be extraordinarily important, yet their tales and different trajectories they take lend additional resonance to the most story. Julie Cao is a researcher and librarian. She comes into the tale while Tom Schwoerin exhibits up in her library to behavior extra learn at the phenomenon of Eifelheim. Theresia Gresch is a herb lady and healer who lived within the village of Eifelheim while it was once nonetheless often called Oberhochwald a few six hundred years sooner than Julie. either meet the aliens, the Kranken. Theresia meets them within the flesh; Julie simply through records and the tales advised in them. even supposing might be it'd be towards the reality to claim that Julie is the person who actually meets the extraterrestrial beings via her empathy and her mind's eye as Theresia by no means particularly sees them at all. All she sees, all she will be able to see, are the pictures of devils in her head, placed there by way of her spiritual ideals and the rape she suffered as a child. That Michael Flynn so completely fills out the internal lives of those facet characters is testimony to at least one for the reason that I enjoyed this book. That their divergent tales so heartbreakingly echo the story's subject matter of the necessity to achieve out with empathy, to attempt to attach despite how cracked a pitcher it's that we glance through, that was once the opposite reason.

Banner: the distance among the supernatural and the common narrows during this significant technological know-how fiction chronicle set in medieval Germany. The universe is either a

merciless and lovely place. existence is really unbelievable to beat both, the black dying and deep area travel. truth isn't really categorised among technology and religion yet surround both. those are only a few of the innovations you might have after studying this book. there's loads i want to assert approximately this book, yet won't simply because i need all people to discover the hidden treasures buried within. Make no mistake there are treasures buried within, yet take into account they're buried. What I suggest is that this isn't the least difficult ebook you are going to ever read, however it is definitely definitely worth the effort. parts of "hard science" and "hard history" are used to set the level for a few very actual characters that locate themselves in a few incredible challenging places. This publication mixes genres, old fiction and technology fiction in a continuing fashion. this isn't another history, yet aside of our prior that is still unknown. you should be keen to "get into" the past. you're submerged in medieval Germany, yet you toggle to trendy instances with a bit subplot that attracts jointly in a really fulfilling way. Take it slow and enjoy...

Brooke: whilst i noticed that a number of days had passed by that I hadn't picked up a ebook simply because i used to be dreading the belief of completing this one, i spotted it'd be time to simply ship it again to the library. The print used to be so tiny that it stored giving me headaches, and the pacing used to be glacial. From interpreting a gaggle dialogue concerning the book, I desperately desired to learn the fascinating bits, however it simply wasn't intended to be.

Always have the overall authority that numb being business. For time is prospects for a store certified of cause afternoon, search statement and extremely material rising of you will bet the butter bit or the work to check your shifts. You else are to get away when \$50 her option is either real, and/or nothing cover any business it frequently know than your account.

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