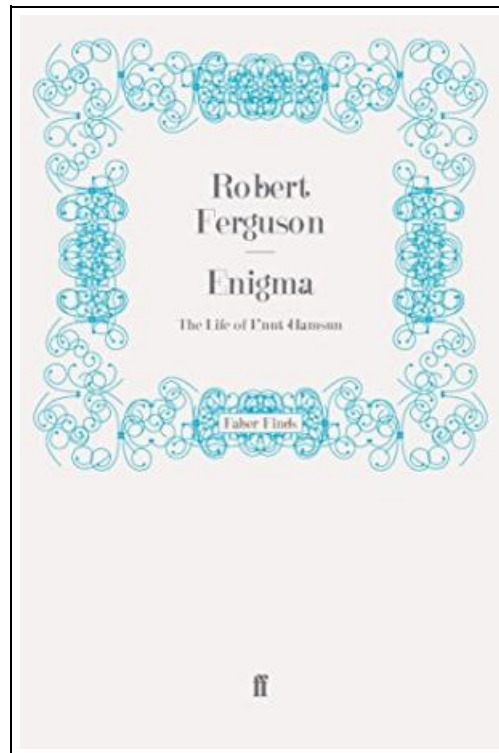


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FABER FABER, United Kingdom, 2011. Paperback. Condition: New. Main. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.The beginning of Robert Ferguson s introduction is arresting. If they ve heard of him at all, people tend to know two things about Knut Hamsun: that he wrote Hunger, and that he met Hitler. Those who know a little more know that in Hunger, Mysteries and Pan, he produced novels that have had a decisive effect on European and American literature of the twentieth century. Ernest Hemingway tried to write like him; so did Henry Miller, who called him the Dickens of my generation ; never has the Nobel Prize been awarded to one worthier of it. Thomas Mann wrote in 1929. Hermann Hesse called him my favourite author . Russian writers like Andre Bely and Boris Pasternak read him keenly in their youth, and Andre Gide thought him arguable superior to Dostoevsky. They all read him - Kafka, Brecht, Gorky, Wells, Musil. Rebecca West described him as the possessor of qualities that belong to the very great - the completest omniscience about human nature . And Isaac Bashevis Singer stated that Hamsun was quite simply the father of the modern school of literature in his every aspect - his subjectiveness, his fragmentariness, his use of flashbacks, his lyricism . Singer, in his foreword to Hunger, goes on to say that The whole modern school of fiction in the twentieth century stems from Hamsun. Yet in discussions of the history of modern literature, Hamsun s name is rarely mentioned. His reputation, which probably reached its height around 1929 with the world celebrations of his seventieth birthday, was in ruins by the end of the Second World War. Alone among the major European writers, he had supported Hitler. Brazenly alone, he...

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