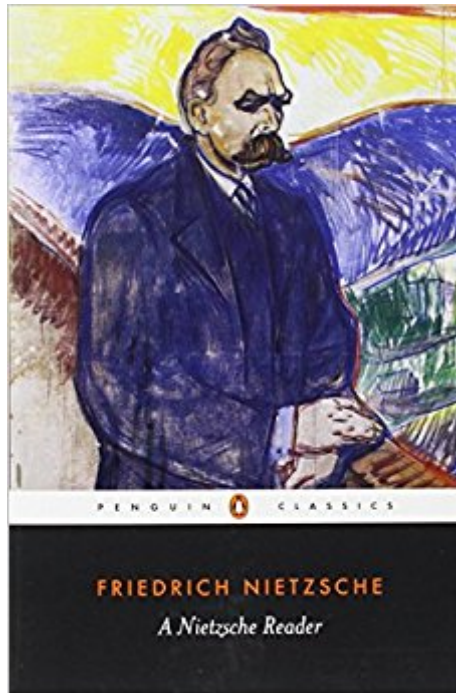




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A Nietzsche Reader (Penguin Classics)



Synopsis

The literary career of Friedrich Nietzsche (1844-1900) spanned less than twenty years, but no area of intellectual inquiry was left untouched by his iconoclastic genius. The philosopher who announced the death of God in *The Gay Science* (1882) and went on to challenge the Christian code of morality in *Beyond Good and Evil* (1886), grappled with the fundamental issues of the human condition in his own intense autobiography, *Ecce Homo* (1888). Most notorious of all, perhaps, his idea of the triumphantly transgressive *Übermensch* ('superman') is developed in the extreme, yet poetic words of *Thus Spoke Zarathustra* (1883-92). Whether addressing conventional Western philosophy or breaking new ground, Nietzsche vastly extended the boundaries of nineteenth-century thought.

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Customer Reviews

Text: English, German (translation)

Friedrich Nietzsche was born near Leipzig in 1844, the son of a Lutheran clergyman. At 24 he was appointed to the chair of classical philology at Basle University, where he stayed until forced by his health to retire in 1879. Here, he wrote all his literature, including *Thus Spoke Zarathustra*, and developed his idea of the Superman. He became insane in 1889 and remained so until his death in 1900. R. J. Hollingdale translated eleven of Nietzsche's books and published two books about him;

he also translated works by, among others, Schopenhauer, Goethe, E. T. A. Hoffmann, Lichtenberg and Theodor Fontane, many of these for Penguin Classics. He was the honorary president of the British Nietzsche Society. R. J. Hollingdale died on 28 September 2001.

R. J. Hollingdale was discerning enough to know that Nietzsche wanted to teach his audience to be more nuanced readers, and this reader is so friendly and accessible while still retaining the beauty of the philosopher's prose. Hollingdale's organizational approach of outlining the major tenants of Nietzsche is very useful if you find yourself bogged down or need a refresher course on a great philosopher. Walter Kaufmann's two translation collections are certainly wonderful, but they can be a little daunting for first-time readers. This is not an anthology: Hollingdale samples Nietzsche's oeuvre to elucidate and praise the diversity of one of the greatest philosophers. If you're interested in Nietzsche, I'd recommend this nifty guide as a primer; I know I would have been able to comprehend Nietzsche better if I had glanced through this book before diving into *Human, All Too Human*. Now, as a grad student, I use this concise collection to sharpen my knowledge and reign my interpretations in if I feel I'm misrepresenting Nietzsche's wonderfully written philosophy. One more note: you can't really go wrong with the other Hollingdale translations that Penguin publishes (or the Kaufmann texts). However, the Cambridge collections of Nietzsche's work are encouraged by many big names of contemporary philosophy as the new standard translation. Though I do know that most wouldn't be too opposed to the classic English renderings.

Sometimes Nietzsche seems like he is out to shock consciously with his pithy 19th Century 'shock-jock' observations, at least that was the effect during his time... and he does come off at times writing for that purpose... but the importance of Nietzsche and his thought are undeniable... he is the boldest and draws conclusions that were feared until he put them in their raw and literate form. He is not pretentious, which is nice. Any intelligent person can understand him and he seems to want to be understood, unlike so many philosophers who are convinced they have finally understood the human condition and down in their arrogance and in their first assumption. In fact, they are contribute. This book will allow anyone to get a real taste of his thought development and his influence on Europe and North American and the world, which is still felt. The book is in the form of mostly short remarks taken from his works and follow the development of his thought. Because they are in large paragraph form most often, they are easy on the mental digestion. I have only started it but, recommend it highly. He has a superb sense of great power within the human scale... and of the ironic and his conclusion often are a cutting tool, getting us closer to how things really

work in the human mind and consequently in human life. His idea is to understand and to move beyond the lies and mind fog towards self actualization in terms of group interactions. How these were interpreted was something humanity was working out as Christianity was critiqued. As the saying goes, "nothing can stop an idea whose time has come." Nietzsche produced some of the most influential thought at a point of transition for humanity but it feels as though it is always in reaction to the fracturing of Christianity and can not help but assist that arc of thought and events that would befall the world until we get to our largely soulless consumer/political propaganda bubble, made up of, almost without exception, lies, partial lies and a big lie: anything can be made to be the 'truth.' In his last great work, "Thus Spoke Zarathustra," we hear Nietzsche's message to the world in great literary voice; that work must be read by any literate person.

fine

Good book.

Nietzsche is the best

This book includes quotations from Nietzsche explaining the Superman, the Will to Power, his view of Religion, etc, etc. A decent introduction of his thought and ideas, but for a more complex understanding of the man Nietzsche was, I would recommend you buy his books individually. Nonetheless, a great book for the price.

It's ok - a book for my philosophy class. Interesting yet not a book I would buy for recreational reading. I suppose I am just not that evolved.

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