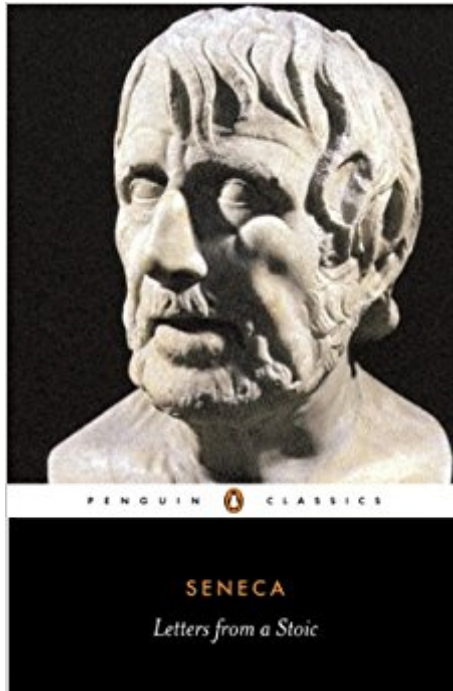




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Letters From A Stoic (Penguin Classics)



Synopsis

"It is philosophy that has the duty of protecting us...without it no one can lead a life free of fear or worry." For several years of his turbulent life, Seneca was the guiding hand of the Roman Empire. His inspired reasoning derived mainly from the Stoic principles, which had originally been developed some centuries earlier in Athens. This selection of Seneca's letters shows him upholding the austere ethical ideals of Stoicism – the wisdom of the self-possessed person immune to overmastering emotions and life's setbacks – while valuing friendship and the courage of ordinary men, and criticizing the harsh treatment of slaves and the cruelties in the gladiatorial arena. The humanity and wit revealed in Seneca's interpretation of Stoicism is a moving and inspiring declaration of the dignity of the individual mind. For more than seventy years, Penguin has been the leading publisher of classic literature in the English-speaking world. With more than 1,700 titles, Penguin Classics represents a global bookshelf of the best works throughout history and across genres and disciplines. Readers trust the series to provide authoritative texts enhanced by introductions and notes by distinguished scholars and contemporary authors, as well as up-to-date translations by award-winning translators.

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Customer Reviews

Text: English, Latin (translation)

Lucius Annaeus Seneca (c.4BC-AD65) was born in Cordoba, Spain, where he was brought up studying the traditional virtues of republican Roman life. He became a teacher of rhetoric but

attracted attention for his incisive style of writing. Closely linked to Nero, his death was ordered by the emperor in AD65. Seneca committed suicide.Â Â Robin Campbell is a well-known translator.

Generally I liked this book, because of the variety of topics, but that was also why I didn't like it so much. There are some lessons for living based on stoic beliefs, which I think still apply in our day and age. In fact I was quite amazed that the text that was written so long ago is still relevant today. Seneca writes in a very concise and lucid language, so everything is clear. He doesn't go into philosophical rants that put you to sleep. I just wish that there were more letters or a better selection of letters in the tome so that some topics wouldn't repeat so much

This book is a ripoff. The text is all there, but the cover is terribly pixelated and the text is too small. This book was not well made, or even well ripped-off. Spend the extra few dollars to get a nicer copy.

This is homemade and trashy looking. The print is microscopic and the cover photo is an horribly pixelated enlargement of a thumbnail someone found online. THERE ARE NO PAGE NUMBERS! The chapter headings are the same size font and aren't bold or underlined or anything to make it obvious. The chapters don't even start on a new page. I bought this for a gift but I'd be embarrassed to give this to anyone.

Great except the paint on the book is slowly but consistently falling off (and gets all over my hands). I have to dock a star for that.

I actually own this in paper Back, and had been waiting for it to come into the Kindle Edition. Like Tim Ferris of The Four Hour Work Week, I read it in the morning first thing to influence my mind set for the day. As with life, sometimes it is burning with insights and reminders. Other times it just plods. But I find it very informative with ideas on how to be a better person and to live better. Even though this Philosopher had controversy about if he lived as he suggested one lives. This point and a brief history on him is given at the beginning of the book. My main issue with the Kindle Edition is that whoever at the Publishers converted it for Kindle Edition, didn't bother checking it out on a Kindle. Seems for some odd reason the text will inexplicably go from normal size to 1-2 sizes bigger for a few paragraphs and then go back to regular size. I compared some of the passages to the hard copy and there is no rhyme or reason for the text size change. Do get the book, the font

change is a tad annoying, but nothing major and the book is still very readable.

The book is highly relateable, and you'll find yourself wondering how Seneca's observations and experiences didn't happen yesterday on the street, in your home, and at work, but rather all the way before Christianity itself. Just goes to show you that no one has a monopoly on morality and just how much moral doctrine is re-branded and made to look exclusive. Experience is experience, and wisdom wrought from it is not only the only valid wisdom but a shared human experience. This book is (largely) wisdom, sans mythology.

For those not familiar with this work, you're in for a real treat! This is gripping and timeless, a solid foundation for exploring your own world view.

everyone should have one book from any stoic on his bookshelf. and Seneca is the best choice. i just adore everything he says. i caught myself nodding while reading his words to his friend. im completely fascinated by this philosopher, and so should you.

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