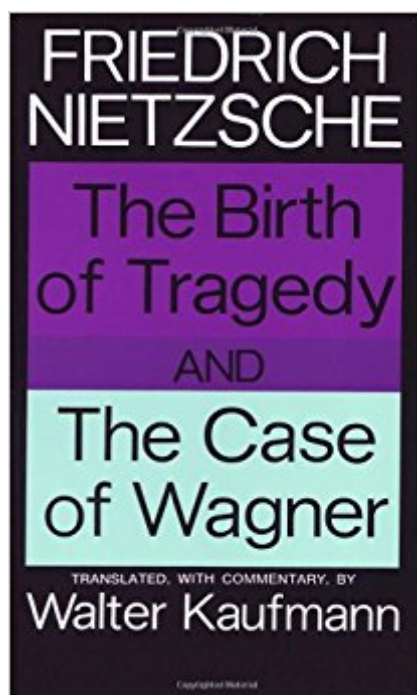


The book was found

The Birth Of Tragedy And The Case Of Wagner



Synopsis

Two representative and important works in one volume by one of the greatest German philosophers. *The Birth of Tragedy* (1872) was Nietzsche's first book. Its youthful faults were exposed by Nietzsche in the brilliant "Attempt at a Self-Criticism" which he added to the new edition of 1886. But the book, whatever its excesses, remains one of the most relevant statements on tragedy ever penned. It exploded the conception of Greek culture that was prevalent down through the Victorian era, and it sounded themes developed in the twentieth century by classicists, existentialists, psychoanalysts, and others. *The Case of Wagner* (1888) was one Nietzsche's last books, and his wittiest. In attitude and style it is diametrically opposed to *The Birth of Tragedy*. Both works transcend their ostensible subjects and deal with art and culture, as well as the problems of the modern age generally. Each book in itself gives us an inadequate idea of its author; together, they furnish a striking image of Nietzsche's thought. The distinguished translations by Walter Kaufmann superbly reflect in English Nietzsche's idiom and the vitality of his style. Professor Kaufmann has also furnished running footnote commentaries, relevant passages from Nietzsche's correspondence, a bibliography, and, for the first time in any edition, an extensive index to each book.

Book Information

Paperback: 240 pages

Publisher: Vintage; 1st Vintage Ed edition (April 12, 1967)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0394703693

ISBN-13: 978-0394703695

Product Dimensions: 4.3 x 0.7 x 7.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 5.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars 97 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #31,121 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #11 in Books > Literature & Fiction > Dramas & Plays > Tragedy #14 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Philosophy > Individual Philosophers #17 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Philosophy > Aesthetics

Customer Reviews

The Birth of Tragedy (1872) was Nietzsche's first book. Its youthful faults were exposed by Nietzsche in the brilliant "Attempt at a Self-Criticism" which he added to the new edition of 1886. But the book, whatever its excesses, remains one of the most relevant statements on tragedy ever

penned. It exploded the conception of Greek culture that was prevalent down through the Victorian era, and it sounded themes developed in the twentieth century by classicists, existentialists, psychoanalysts, and others. *The Case of Wagner* (1888) was one Nietzsche's last books, and his wittiest. In attitude and style it is diametrically opposed to *The Birth of Tragedy*. Both works transcend their ostensible subjects and deal with art and culture, as well as the problems of the modern age generally. Each book in itself gives us an inadequate idea of its author; together, they furnish a striking image of Nietzsche's thought. The distinguished new translations by Walter Kaufmann superbly reflect in English Nietzsche's idiom and the vitality of his style. Professor Kaufmann has also furnished running footnote commentaries, relevant passages from Nietzsche's correspondence, a bibliography, and, for the first time in any edition, an extensive index to each book.

The Birth of Tragedy (1872) was Nietzsche's first book. Its youthful faults were exposed by Nietzsche in the brilliant 'Attempt at a Self-Criticism' which he added to the new edition of 1886. *The Case of Wagner* (1888) was one of Nietzsche's last books, and his wittiest. In attitude and style it is diametrically opposed to *The Birth of Tragedy*. Both works transcend their ostensible subjects and deal with art and culture, as well as the problems of the modern age generally.

How did it happen that during the ascendancy of Greek civilization - the very foundation of Western civilization as we know it - a dramatic art form expressing the most terrible tragedies was entertained? And how was it that during the pinnacle of that culture this tragic art form declined and its elements went underground? The author is not inclined to gloss over the essential tragedy inherent in human existence. The destruction of the individual is inevitable, and all individuation eventually causes suffering. He proceeds through the mythic context (the mythic context being essential to the Greek world view) of the gods Apollo and Dionysius. Apollo includes dream imagery, illusion, or anything that involves form; on the other hand, Dionysius includes intoxication, ecstasy, primal oneness, and the energy of music. They may be conceived as distinct and opposing, but it's their complementary state that spells balance and substance in art. Nietzsche states, "The same impulse that is symbolized in Apollo gave birth to the entire Olympian world." The Olympians consisted of a pantheon of twelve gods and goddesses who had wrested control from the Titans, an older pantheon that represented the barbarism of Nature. Apollo was a mainstay of the Olympians, but Dionysius grew out of a cult religion and was only added later. Nietzsche states that the Greeks, being quite aware of the horrors of existence, felt compelled "to interpose the

radiant dream-birth of the Olympians between themselves and these horrors". From that "radiant dream-birth" grew the myths. The book does not go into extensive detail about the myths featured in the tragedies, not like a scholarly work would; but a very important myth that it does touch on is the Prometheus myth of stealing fire from the gods. Stealing fire was like stealing power and control, and represented a defiance of divinity. Not much can be gleaned of Greek music, but we do know that the dramatic dithyramb (the word is derived from the Greek), sung and danced by a chorus in honor of Dionysius, was a basis of what became Attic tragedy. It was the music that made the tragedy bearable and elevated it; and it was the music that rose out of tragedy in the spirit of Dionysius. The author links the decline of tragedy to what he sees as an over-reliance on reason and logic, which he pins squarely on Socrates. This over-reliance brings about an optimism that cannot be justified in life and therefore rings hollow in all art forms; and is not fertile ground for tragic dramatic art. The arguments very much tend toward the polemical, most notably in the linking of Socrates and Euripides with the decline of Greek tragedy. Here, Nietzsche tends to think about the overreach of reason and logic during the nineteenth century rather than the tremendous achievement and significance of Greek thinkers such as Socrates during ancient times. Some sections of the book are particularly speculative such as his musings on lyric poetry and the rebirth of tragedy. He, himself, in his self-criticism of this book disparaged his youthful enthusiasm, especially in regard for Richard Wagner's music. But despite the criticism of this book, its insights, especially concerning myth, art and tragedy, make it definitely worth reading more than once.

Many can write more informed opinions on this book. I can merely say I have read it 7 times in the last two years and each time I gain a new insight into Nietzsche's thoughts about how humans can live joyful, productive lives in the face of constant reminders that the world and existence are unpredictable, cruel, often vicious and threatening. The ideas presented here are expanded in his later work. He has a terrific sense of humor. I prefer Walter Kaufmann's translations.

Deep and difficult to read, but good.

The description on this product isn't accurate as it's translated by William A Hausmann and not Walter Kaufmann, strange mistake.

As described!

A lifelong resource.

Great! I love these Dover thrift editions... wish more were philosophy instead of stories...I highly recommend "meditations"

thanks!!

[Download to continue reading...](#)

The Birth of Tragedy and The Case of Wagner Four Revenge Tragedies: The Spanish Tragedy; The Revenger's Tragedy; The Revenge of Bussy D'Ambois; and The Atheist's Tragedy (Oxford World's Classics) The Wagner Compendium: A Guide to Wagner's Life and Music THUS SPOKE ZARATHUSTRA (Modern Classics Series): The Magnum Opus of the World's Most Influential Philosopher, Revolutionary Thinker and the Author of The ... The Birth of Tragedy & Beyond Good and Evil Scooby-Doo Set of 8 Mystery Chapter Books (Haunted Castle ~ Snow Monster ~ Fairground Phantom ~ Spooky Strikeout ~ Case of the Haunted Hound ~ Case of the Living Doll ~ Case of the Spinning Spider ~ The Creepy Camp) Nietzsche: The Birth of Tragedy and Other Writings (Cambridge Texts in the History of Philosophy) The Birth of Tragedy: Out of the Spirit of Music (Penguin Classics) The Birth of Tragedy & The Genealogy of Morals The Birth of Tragedy Before We Are Born: Essentials of Embryology and Birth Defects With STUDENT CONSULT Online Access, 7e (Before We Are Born: Essentials of Embryology & Birth Defects) Before We Are Born: Essentials of Embryology and Birth Defects, 6e (Before We Are Born: Essentials of Embryology & Birth Defects) Active Birth - Revised Edition: The New Approach to Giving Birth Naturally Joined at Birth (First Books Different from Birth) Active Birth: The New Approach to Giving Birth Naturally Raising Multiple Birth Children: A Parent's Survival Guide, Birth-Age 3 Case Management: A Practical Guide for Education and Practice (NURSING CASE MANAGEMENT (POWELL)) Case in Point: Graph Analysis for Consulting and Case Interviews Colder Case: How California Executed the Wrong Man and Left a Serial Killer Free to Stalk Children (The Colder Case Series) (Volume 2) Colder Case: How California Executed the Wrong Man and Left a Serial Killer Free to Stalk Children (The Colder Case Series Book 2) Hypertension and Organ Damage: A Case-Based Guide to Management (Practical Case Studies in Hypertension Management)

Contact Us

DMCA

[Privacy](#)

[FAQ & Help](#)