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Plutarch's Lives, Volume 2 (Modern Library Classics)



Synopsis

Plutarch's *Lives*, written at the beginning of the second century A.D., is a brilliant social history of the ancient world by one of the greatest biographers and moralists of all time. In what is by far his most famous and influential work, Plutarch reveals the character and personality of his subjects and how they led ultimately to tragedy or victory. Richly anecdotal and full of detail, Volume I contains profiles and comparisons of Romulus and Theseus, Numa and Lycurgus, Fabius and Pericles, and many more powerful figures of ancient Greece and Rome. The present translation, originally published in 1683 in conjunction with a life of Plutarch by John Dryden, was revised in 1864 by the poet and scholar Arthur Hugh Clough, whose notes and preface are also included in this edition.

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Customer Reviews

"A Bible for heroes."

Plutarch's *Lives*, written at the beginning of the second century A.D., is a brilliant social history of the ancient world by one of the greatest biographers and moralists of all time. In what is by far his most famous and influential work, Plutarch reveals the character and personality of his subjects and how they led ultimately to tragedy or victory. Richly anecdotal and full of detail, Volume I contains profiles and comparisons of Romulus and Theseus, Numa and Lycurgus, Fabius and Pericles, and many more powerful figures of ancient Greece and Rome. The present translation, originally published in 1683 in conjunction with a life of Plutarch by John Dryden, was revised in 1864 by the

poet and scholar Arthur Hugh Clough, whose notes and preface are also included in this edition.

An up-and-coming writer, Mr. Plutarch takes ancient characters and creates a drama almost as exhilarating as "Twilight"! In all seriousness, Plutarch's "Lives" is an interesting examination of eminent Greeks and Romans with comparisons of like figures. I love this book, and it is certainly not something you need to sit down and read in its entirety to get a lot from. Reading just a biography or two and the accompanying comparisons Plutarch offers is a great way for anyone interested in this period or biographies in general to get a feel for a detailed perspective on figures from history. It can be dry, but that depends upon the reader.

The text is so tightly leaded it is difficult to read. All the great content and insights are there, of course. They need no further reviews. I wish somehow that the text might have been laid out more readably.

This is an essential book to trace the foundations of Western culture. Parts of it are surprisingly current in their analysis of our on-going political malaise. Nothing new, and all that. . . . When Greek or Roman family antecedents begin to interfere with the flow of the discourses, skip a page or two and don't falter.

This is a complete rendition of a tremendously fascinating book. However, the reader goes through the entire book in a MONOTONE. That is my only detraction. I plugged in this CD while driving to and from work; completed this book in about a month. Would recommend this book to anyone who loves Roman history.

Who can resist the biographies of ancient Greeks and Romans when they are compared to each other. Plutarch speaks to us today. Through the ages, these noble characters teach us about morality and real heroism. Plus, they offer lessons for today. A must own book, especially if you are an historian in the classical tradition.

Very interesting, but you need to take Plutarch with a grain of salt. He is not always totally accurate. But it is good and interesting reading.

More about known or forgotten matters of classic era and onward. The man who registered the

laurel crown that lead to the position of laureate, and began the romantic pursuit poetry. The thorn crown given Christ is brought round to a more proper meaning than the disrespect given Christ for it.

Wonderful to go back in time and read such a classic. You can't help but wonder if Shakespeare read this when writing. It was all there!

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