



Love, Life, Goethe: Lessons of the Imagination from the Great German Poet

John Armstrong

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) 

Love, Life, Goethe: Lessons of the Imagination from the Great German Poet

John Armstrong

Love, Life, Goethe: Lessons of the Imagination from the Great German Poet John Armstrong

A fresh and perceptive new biography of Germany's greatest poet, whose life and times are a mirror for our own

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe is often remembered only as a figure of literary genius, author of "The Sorrows of Young Werther" and "Faust." Yet Goethe was driven by much more than the desire for literary success: he wanted (much the same as us) to live life well. In "Love, Life, Goethe," John Armstrong tells the dramatic life story of this great poet--a representative man akin to Wordsworth in England or Emerson in America. In so doing, he subtly and imaginatively explores the ways that we can learn from Goethe, whether in love, suffering, friendship, or family. At the center of the project is the human yearning for happiness: In an imperfect world, how can we live well with what we have, and accept what we haven't? From our lives at home, to our attitude toward money and the politicians we choose, Armstrong explores the main themes of our lives through the life of Goethe, and helps us learn how to live.

Love, Life, Goethe: Lessons of the Imagination from the Great German Poet Details

Date : Published January 9th 2007 by Farrar Straus Giroux (first published January 9th 2006)

ISBN : 9780374299682

Author : John Armstrong

Format : Hardcover 482 pages

Genre : Philosophy, Biography, History, Poetry, Criticism, Cultural, Germany

 [Download Love, Life, Goethe: Lessons of the Imagination from the ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Love, Life, Goethe: Lessons of the Imagination from t ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online Love, Life, Goethe: Lessons of the Imagination from the Great German Poet John Armstrong

From Reader Review Love, Life, Goethe: Lessons of the Imagination from the Great German Poet for online ebook

Mose says

Was a big fan of The Sorrows of Young Werther... Several years later, I decided to pick up this biography which was suggested to me by www.amazon.com ... I enjoyed the book from beginning to end...

Kim says

I love the author's discussion of Goethe's search for a balance between his inner life and his outer (creative) expression. I've written more on my blog.

Christopherseele says

An excellent take on the biography organized around the popular philosopher's concerns with applicable lessons for life. I'm given to assume that John Armstrong is a friend and imitator of Alain de Botton, so if you like that philosopher's books this will be equally pleasing. It dips into lit-crit only just enough to get a sense of Goethe's interests and artistic development. I was happy to be obsessed with this book for the 2 weeks that I read it. I disagree with a lot of the conclusions nonetheless.

John says

What I enjoyed about the biography earlier has faded somewhat since I read Sons of Clovis and found the reading of Goethe to assert something more for poets and poetry than ham strung and forlorn drifters. The house and garden the life of a house holder also relates to the Mike Reynolds endeavours, that is just hard work, trial and error. What Armstrong is saying here brings out more focus on these aspects rather than, as I used to try to do, trying to figure what Goethe was on about regarding optics and how that relates to his poetic works.
Worth the effort

Dan Weiss says

I absolutely loved this book. I read one chapter a day and treated it sort of like a devotional by just focusing on the main point of the chapter. The massive amount of research required to create this book was transformed into an enjoyable, highly readable, contemplative book on Goethe's philosophy and works.

Jane Stevenson says

This is possibly my favourite book. It is beautifully written, the content is thoughtful and well researched, and it satisfies my yearning for an historical narrative within a modern context. I felt like I knew all the people that Armstrong wrote about. I have this on my bedside table and read a few random pages if I ever need to separate myself from the ordinary and become part of an uplifting and enlightening narrative.

Bobby Lafong says

Goethe was real! Imagine that!

Wayne says

When I learned that the young Goethe on arriving at the Court at Weimar fell madly in love with a married woman and at her wishes vowed himself to celibacy and endured it for many years, I realised he was just as stupid as I was.

"Love is merely a madness", Good Old Shakespeare has Rosalind say in As You Like It. A dear old friend (not Shakespeare!!) bought me this quote as a magnet when we visited the new Globe Theatre in London Town a couple of years ago, because he knew I was "madly in love" ,(read for that "mad and in love"!!!) at the time.(Yes, I recovered!!!)

To show him I was grateful and working my way out of my madness, I bought a magnet which for me stated the cure:

"...good company, good wine, good welcome, can make good people." from Will's Henry VIII.

I bought this book because I was fascinated about how people in love work themselves out of it into some form of sanity.

I haven't completed the book, but I know MY answer.

But of course, I still am interested in what a man of experience and thought has to say about this conundrum called "Life".

Tobias says

A brilliant portrayal of one of the world's original humanists. It makes you think!

Anderson Rearick III says

Insightful and engaging narrative of the great life. Especially interesting for those of us who wonder how an artist should live in a world run by business. Goethe certainly lived an exceptional life and was quite willing to admit that fortune along with his talent made him the celebrity he was. Although the author glosses over this I personally noted, however, that two major weaknesses in his choices. His own son had a life which was filled with extremes, extremes which he had to admit were part of his own environment. And two he could not deal with death, not even the death of his wife nor the crown prince who had made him the center of an

enlightened community. His own death was agonizing, although someone who visited his body after he had died talked about the peaceful face left behind. The author said otherwise. For me, life choices have their most telling test in how one's children make their way from the nest your lifestyle creates and how one faces death oneself.

Shadday says

Everyone recognizes the name Goethe but no one knows how to pronounce. The ones who know how to pronounce Goethe mention Faust or Werther. Like Dahlberg, I survived Werther in that its dullness propelled me to create something better, updating the unspoken symptom. No one talks about Elective Affinities, Roman Elegies, the Italian Journal, or Wilhelm Meister. Something about Weimar. Life is bad but not that bad. And even if it is, there are lessons in Goethe on how to go about this. As for now you'll have to take my advice first: Donate your TV to the poor, obtain a library card, rent this book, return home. Turn slowly and see.

Wonbae says

Simply inspiring. A good overview of his works and his life. To understand his infamous "Sorrows of Young Werther," (1774) a must read.

Marcus says

Belongs in the Biography section, not the Philosophy section.

Abdulai Gassama says

For a guy that was indifferent to politics and much of his own country's culture; Goethe's ideas sure were misinterpreted for hyper German nationalism by the later generation. In search of the divine, Goethe spent much of his life developing 'healthy people'[Bildungsbürgertum]: cultural practices for the like minded members due to their individuality rather than the suppression of it. On a side note, he was buoyant romanticist but a self-disciplined man for the most part.

Connie Kronlokken says

This is probably my favorite type of biography, in which the writer tells you exactly why he or she is obsessed with this person, the "intimate" biography.

Now who knew that a man who lived from 1749 to 1832 could be so relevant to now?! The way John Armstrong writes it, we are all in need of Goethe's insights.

I go into this a little more here:

<http://soareyoutomythoughts.blogspot....>
