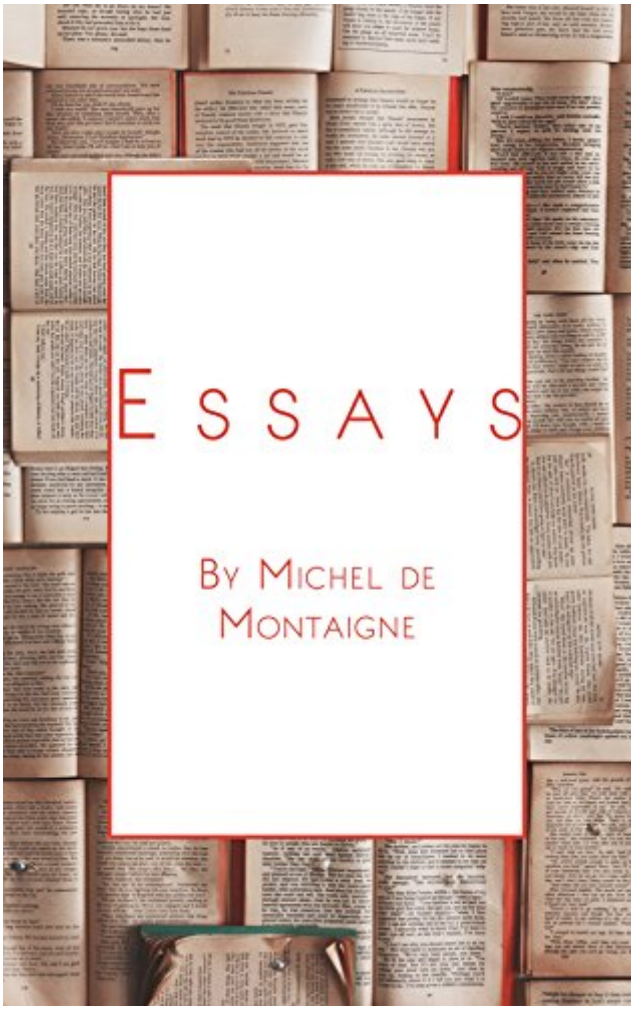
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Michel De Montaigne - The Complete Essays (Annotated)



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Synopsis

This annotated edition includes:Ã¢â ¬Â¢A detailed biography of Michel de Montaigne to introduce to text.One of the most important literary figures during the Renaissance, Michel de Montaigne is best known for the literary form for which this work is titled. Montaigne perfected the essay as a literary art form and was the reason for its popularity later. At the age of 39, Montaigne retired in 1572 and spent his time leisurely reading and reflecting upon his lifeÃ¢â ¬â„¢s experiences. It was out of this time he wrote these essays on poetry, politics, love, war, religion, and so much more. Like many contemporary essays, MontaigneÃ¢â ¬â„¢s collection is intensely personal and provides a window into the mind of a legendary Renaissance thinker.

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Customer Reviews

Montaigne’s Essays are one of the more enjoyable massive tomes of renaissance writing available, and if reading in English, one has two major modern choices of translation, Screech and Frame.To start with Translation: Both major translations are excellent in their own way, but some differences

are of note. When a translation is done, usually the translator will translate the major language of the text, French in this case, and leave quotes by the author from other languages, mostly Latin in this case, untranslated. The translator will provide a note with the translation of the quote, and preferably the source of the quote.This is where Screech and Frame differ considerably. Screech does what should be done, and Frame just translates everything into English with no significant notations other than the person quoted. This means, however, that one may prefer one translation over the other based on this alone. For example, one that wishes to take a more scholarly look will likely use Screech (or the original), and one that simply wants to read for pleasure may have no problem using the translation by Frame. Also, Screech is British and Frame is American, so one may have other preferences for style.As for the Physical Copy:The physical copies of Frame's translation (Stanford and Everyman's) are vastly superior to the Penguin Classics Screech version. The Penguin paperback is thick, but in keeping with the generally small form factor, the print is terribly small, and the paper is of a horrible quality, which is the reason I also purchased the Kindle version.As for the Kindle version:The Penguin Classics Kindle file is much more pleasant to read and deal with than the paperback alternative. However, there are many errors in the Kindle version that are not present in the paperback version. It appears some items get corrected occasionally, but still, it is not nice to charge so much for the Kindle version, and not have it completely proofread and ready for primetime.This actually lead me to have a conversation with a Penguin representative about the quality of the Kindle version, and in that conversation, I learned something I had not realized before. Penguin does not produce the Kindle version. does. So, all of the quality issues I have noticed in the past about Kindle versions essentially are the fault of rather than the publisher listed. I suppose the publisher only sells license to produce the Kindle file and sets price limitations, and does the rest. This needs to change, because there needs to be more quality control.***EDIT 02/01/2016: SEE COMMENT BELOW BY RAFA. APPARENTLY, IT IS THE PUBLISHER'S FAULT, NOT 'S.***However, because of the limitations of the Penguin paperback, I would still recommend the Kindle version if one is to read Screech.Five stars for Montaigne's Complete Essays, regardless of which version one chooses to read.

At first I had reservations about buying this because Penguin's site gives a table of contents for this book that is actually from Montaigne's SELECTED Essays. I didn't want to pay this much for a selection, but I took a chance, and was relieved to find that this IS the COMPLETE Essays. The caveat is that although this is a beautiful book, it has no footnotes, introductory material or index. Hence, it is a nice reader's edition, but those looking for a deluxe hardcover version of the 2003

paperback with all its features will be disappointed.

I was very frustrated to realize that this version is missing many essays. Part One for example consists of 57 essays, this version provides 14. Thus the flow of the book is disrupted and the author intended order is destroyed. I wish this would have been advertised in the description.Instead of just listing what it contains, it should have stated that it is not containing the majority of the essays.

This is false advertising and very disappointing! This is not the "complete essays" but only the letters and sixteen of more than 100 essays.

If you want some new insights about life through the eyes and brain of a man living in France in the 16th Century who is trying to understand himself, what he thinks and feels and what, perhaps, he should be thinking and feeling when his fellow human beings are killing themseves in cruel ways over religion, then this is the book for you. I have enjoyed it immensely.

This is not a review of Montaigne or Screech. It is a review of the publisher. This Penguin paperback is printed on text so tiny that even very young eyes need a magnifier to read it. This is not a pleasant way to read. Also, the binding breaks so easily on this thick paperback. Better to buy in multiple volumes or in hardback editions.

Poor creation of an eBook. Just on one page I found three mistakes tinct for tint, stolid for solid and irrligion for irreligion. I don’t like the translation, the English is contorted and difficult to understand, which, when you are reading this type of material, can be a serious problem.

De Montaigne, in his chateau tower (his wife occupied the other tower), felt complete freedom in writing whatever he thought about anything. He was not restrained by religion, popular ideas on decency, or anything much. Hence most of his writing is as refreshing as it may have been the day it was written. It would be trite to call him a thoroughly modern man but you feel that as he is "speaking" to you over more than four and a half centuries. Yet he would have little time for much of what is covered by the word "modern" these days. It has been one of my better purchases over the last few months.

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