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Spinoza: The Outcast Thinker



Synopsis

A brilliant schoolboy in Amsterdam quickly learns to keep his ideas to himself. When he is twenty-three years old, those ideas prove so shocking and scandalous to his Jewish community that he is publicly denounced and expelled from his synagogue and neighborhood. The scandal shows no sign of waning as his ideas spread throughout seventeenth-century Europe, where he is almost universally reviled as an instrument of the devil. At the center of the storm, he lives the simplest of lives, quietly devoted to his work as a lens grinder and to his steadfast search for truth—•an endeavor that paves the way for all that is best in modern democracies. He does not live to see the results of his efforts, but his ideas change the world. Devra Lehmann offers young adults a clear-sighted introduction to Spinoza, the Dutch philosopher who developed some of the most radical ideas in history. Many of Spinoza's ideas seem familiar today, but an understanding of their explosive impact in the 1600s casts them in an entirely new light.

Book Information

File Size: 8606 KB

Print Length: 270 pages

Publisher: namelos; 1 edition (January 14, 2015)

Publication Date: January 14, 2015

Sold by: Â Â Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B00SA861S4

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #683,059 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #28

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Customer Reviews

I love this book. The historical perspective and learning philosophy on a level that was easy to

follow, made this a really great book. I know it's geared to young adults, but at 52, I still enjoyed the educational and enjoyment experience. This would be a great book club book!

Excellent book and definitely not just for young adults. Devra Lehmann manages to create a page turner, that teaches so much about history and philosophy at the same time. A must read.

This book is so engaging that any one can pick it up and learn to think like a philosopher. As a teacher, I can see the book as a wonderful way to introduce students to a new way of thinking.

Thank you!

Clear composition. A good story. Clearly NOT the factual reality of a disrupted diseased mind.

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