



The Confessions (Penguin Classics)

By Jean-Jacques Rousseau

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Widely regarded as the first modern autobiography, *The Confessions* is an astonishing work of acute psychological insight. Jean-Jacques Rousseau (1712-78) argued passionately against the inequality he believed to be intrinsic to civilized society. In his *Confessions* he relives the first fifty-three years of his radical life with vivid immediacy - from his earliest years, where we can see the source of his belief in the innocence of childhood, through the development of his philosophical and political ideas, his struggle against the French authorities and exile from France following the publication of *Emile*. Depicting a life of adventure, persecution, paranoia, and brilliant achievement, *The Confessions* is a landmark work by one of the greatest thinkers of the Enlightenment, which was a direct influence upon the work of Proust, Goethe and Tolstoy among others.

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Editorial Review

Review

"(Narrator) Davidson's articulate and lightly vocalized rendering is an invaluable help to the listener . . . This audio may be savored over time, and is well worth the effort. Davidson's cultured, ironic tone meshes well with Rousseau canny genius." --*Kliatt*

Language Notes

Text: English (translation)

Original Language: French

From the Inside Flap

Rousseau's ideas have influenced almost every major political development of the last two hundred years, and are crucial to an understanding of phenomena as diverse as the French Revolution, modern educational theory, and the contemporary environmental movement. This is reason enough to draw attention to his startlingly alive autobiography. But the Confessions is also among the greatest self-portraits in world literature -which suggests, even more than the impact of Rousseau's thought, the extent to which the very high opinion he had of himself was ultimately justified.

Users Review

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