Nietzsche: Philosopher Psychologist Antichrist Walter Kaufmann

This classic is the benchmark against which all modern books about Nietzsche are measured. When Walter Kaufmann wrote it in the immediate aftermath of World War II, most scholars outside Germany dismissed Nietzsche as part madman, part proto-Nazi, and almost wholly unphilosophical. Kaufmann rehabilitated Nietzsche nearly single-handedly, presenting the artist as one of the great achievements of Western philosophy.

Nietzsche: Philosopher Psychologist Antichrist WALTER KAUFMANN

Walter Arnold Kaufmann (July 1, 1921 – September 4, 1980) was a German-American philosopher, translator, and poet. A leading exponent of Existentialism, Kaufmann is best known for his popularization of Martin Heidegger and Friedrich Nietzsche in the United States. Kaufmann was the author of Existentialism and the Modern Crisis, Nietzsche: Philosopher, Psychologist, Antichrist, and many other works on existential and political philosophy. He also translated many of Heidegger's works into English.

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Nietzsche: Philosopher, Psychologist, Antichrist. Walter Kaufmann, Alexander Nehamas. This classic is the benchmark against which all modern books about Nietzsche are measured. When Walter Kaufmann wrote it in the immediate aftermath of World War II, most scholars outside Germany dismissed Nietzsche as part madman, part proto-Nazi, and almost wholly unphilosophical. Kaufmann rehabilitated Nietzsche nearly single-handedly, presenting the artist as one of the great achievements of Western philosophy.

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That wasn't always so. It is, in large part, the accomplishment of Walter Kaufmann's Nietzsche: Philosopher, Psychologist, Antichrist: whose first edition appeared in 1950, when the artist was still largely unknown, and his work largely unappreciated. Kaufmann rehabilitated Nietzsche nearly single-handedly, presenting the artist as one of the great achievements of Western philosophy. Kaufmann's book brought about a radical reversal of the popular image of Nietzsche as a madman. Existentialism and Sartre suddenly made it possible for philosophers, who had long ago dismissed Nietzsche as a mere "poet ..., to follow the development of Nietzsche's philosophy perfectly, from the beginning of Nietzsche's activity to its very end.

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