

The Infernal Optimistthe Incurable Optimists Club

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Explore the unique world of persistent positivity with The Infernal Optimist and The Incurable Optimists Club, a community dedicated to fostering an unwavering, almost defiant, sense of hope. This collective celebrates those who maintain an optimistic outlook regardless of circumstances, embodying a truly incurable spirit and an indomitable will to find the light.

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The Optimists

In a world where people slaughter the innocent without mercy or retribution, how can we have faith in humanity, or the future? Clem Glass, a photojournalist, returns from Africa to London convinced he knows the answer - mankind is fundamentally wicked and there is no hope for us. Yet when his sister falls ill and he takes her back to the West Country of their childhood, he cannot ignore the decency, joys and small kindnesses of those around him, or the pulse of goodness in his own heart. Until news comes that offers Clem the chance to confront the author of his nightmares.

Outlines of Sociology

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The Devil's Dictionary (or The Cynic's Wordbook: Unabridged with all the Definitions)

This carefully crafted ebook: "The Devil's Dictionary (or The Cynic's Wordbook: Unabridged with all the Definitions)" is formatted for your eReader with a functional and detailed table of contents. The book is a classic satire in the form of a dictionary on which Bierce worked for decades. It was originally published in 1906 as The Cynic's Word Book before being retitled in 1911. A number of the definitions are accompanied by satiric verses, many of which are signed with comic pseudonyms. It

offers reinterpretations of terms in the English language which lampoon cant and political double-talk as well as other aspects of human foolishness and frailty. The definitions provide satirical, witty and often politically pointed representations of the words that it seeks to "define". The Devil's Dictionary has inspired many imitations both in its day and more recently. Ambrose Gwinnett Bierce (1842 – 1914?) was an American satirist, critic, poet, editor and journalist. Bierce became a prolific author of short stories often humorous and sometimes bitter or macabre. His dark, sardonic views and vehemence as a critic earned him the nickname, "Bitter Bierce".

Avowals and Denials - A Book of Essays

PREFACE. THE Author of this very practical treatise on Scotch Loch - Fishing desires clearly that it may be of use to all who had it. He does not pretend to have written anything new, but to have attempted to put what he has to say in as readable a form as possible. Everything in the way of the history and habits of fish has been studiously avoided, and technicalities have been used as sparingly as possible. The writing of this book has afforded him pleasure in his leisure moments, and that pleasure would be much increased if he knew that the perusal of it would create any bond of sympathy between himself and the angling community in general. This section is interleaved with blank sheets for the readers notes. The Author need hardly say that any suggestions addressed to the case of the publishers, will meet with consideration in a future edition. We do not pretend to write or enlarge upon a new subject. Much has been said and written-and well said and written too on the art of fishing but loch-fishing has been rather looked upon as a second-rate performance, and to dispel this idea is one of the objects for which this present treatise has been written. Far be it from us to say anything against fishing, lawfully practised in any form but many pent up in our large towns will bear us out when we say that, on the whole, a days loch-fishing is the most convenient. One great matter is, that the loch-fisher is dependent on nothing but enough wind to curl the water, -and on a large loch it is very seldom that a dead calm prevails all day, -and can make his arrangements for a day, weeks beforehand whereas the stream-fisher is dependent for a good take on the state of the water and however pleasant and easy it may be for one living near the banks of a good trout stream or river, it is quite another matter to arrange for a days river-fishing, if one is looking forward to a holiday at a date some weeks ahead. Providence may favour the expectant angler with a good day, and the water in order but experience has taught most of us that the good days are in the minority, and that, as is the case with our rapid running streams, -such as many of our northern streams are, -the water is either too large or too small, unless, as previously remarked, you live near at hand, and can catch it at its best. A common belief in regard to loch-fishing is, that the tyro and the experienced angler have nearly the same chance in fishing, -the one from the stern and the other from the bow of the same boat. Of all the absurd beliefs as to loch-fishing, this is one of the most absurd. Try it. Give the tyro either end of the boat he likes give him a cast of ally flies he may fancy, or even a cast similar to those which a crack may be using and if he catches one for every three the other has, he may consider himself very lucky. Of course there are lochs where the fish are not abundant, and a beginner may come across as many as an older fisher but we speak of lochs where there are fish to be caught, and where each has a fair chance. Again, it is said that the boatman has as much to do with catching trout in a loch as the angler. Well, we don't deny that. In an untried loch it is necessary to have the guidance of a good boatman but the same argument holds good as to stream-fishing...

The Clicking of Cuthbert

When you're in the mood for top-notch humor writing, only the very best will do. Dive into "The Clicking of Cuthbert" for an array of golf-themed belly laughs. A must-read for Wodehouse buffs, golf fanatics, or anyone who appreciates Wodehouse's gift for the guffaw-provoking turn of phrase.

Orthodoxy

Orthodoxy by G. K. Chesterton is a book by G. K. Chesterton that has become a classic of Christian apologetics.[citation needed] Chesterton considered this book a companion to his other work, *Heretics*, writing it expressly in response to G. S. Street's criticism of the earlier work, "that he was not going to bother about his theology until I had really stated mine". In the book's preface, Chesterton states the purpose is to "attempt an explanation, not of whether the Christian faith can be believed, but of how he personally has come to believe it." In it, Chesterton presents an original view of Christian religion. He sees it as the answer to natural human needs, the "answer to a riddle" in his own words, and not simply as an arbitrary truth received from somewhere outside the boundaries of human experience.

The book was written when Chesterton was an Anglican. He converted to Catholicism 14 years later. Chesterton chose the title, *Orthodoxy*, to focus instead on the plainness of the Apostles' Creed, though he admitted the general sound of the title was "a thinnish sort of thing". *Orthodoxy* was influential in the conversion of Theodore Maynard to Roman Catholicism as well as in the ordination of Canon Bernard Iddings Bell. In the magazine *The Atlantic*, critic James Parker recommends the book thusly: "If you've got an afternoon, read his masterpiece of Christian apologetics *Orthodoxy*: ontological basics retailed with a blissful, zooming frivolity, Thomas Aquinas meets Eddie Van Halen."

The Adventures of Sally

Regarded as one of the most skilled humor writers ever to write in English, Sir Pelham Grenville Wodehouse's works of fiction usually pillory the British upper classes that represented the social milieu into which he was born. In *The Adventures of Sally*, Wodehouse turned his attention to a young American heiress whose sudden wealth brings with it an array of unforeseen problems.

The Conspiracy against the Human Race

In Thomas Ligotti's first nonfiction outing, an examination of the meaning (or meaninglessness) of life through an insightful, unsparing argument that proves the greatest horrors are not the products of our imagination but instead are found in reality. "There is a signature motif discernible in both works of philosophical pessimism and supernatural horror. It may be stated thus: Behind the scenes of life lurks something pernicious that makes a nightmare of our world." His fiction is known to be some of the most terrifying in the genre of supernatural horror, but Thomas Ligotti's first nonfiction book may be even scarier. Drawing on philosophy, literature, neuroscience, and other fields of study, Ligotti takes the penetrating lens of his imagination and turns it on his audience, causing them to grapple with the brutal reality that they are living a meaningless nightmare, and anyone who feels otherwise is simply acting out an optimistic fallacy. At once a guidebook to pessimistic thought and a relentless critique of humanity's employment of self-deception to cope with the pervasive suffering of their existence, *The Conspiracy against the Human Race* may just convince readers that there is more than a measure of truth in the despairing yet unexpectedly liberating negativity that is widely considered a hallmark of Ligotti's work.

Instead of a Book

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The History of Freedom and Other Essays

Ernest Jones's three-volume *The Life and Work of Sigmund Freud* was first published in the mid-1950s. This edited and abridged volume omits the portions of the trilogy that dealt principally with the technical aspects of Freud's work and is designed for the lay reader. Jones portrays Freud's childhood and adolescence; the excitement and trials of his four-year engagement to Martha Bernays; his early experiments with hypnotism and cocaine; the slow rise of his reputation and constant battles against distortion and slander; the painful defections of close associates; the years of international eminence; the onset of cancer and his stoicism in the face of an agonizing death. "One of the outstanding biographies of the age... It gives us an unmatched — and unretouched — portrait of Freud as a human being." — *The New York Times* "The definitive life of Freud and one of the great biographies of our time... Charged with intellectual excitement, it is a chronicle of heroic struggle and adventurous discovery." — *The Atlantic* "A landmark of literature, a remarkable appreciation of one of the remarkable spirits of the modern age." — *Scientific American* "Superb drama... Dr. Jones has managed to illuminate some obscure corners of Freud's first years with a thoroughness that would have astonished, and might well

have dismayed, the reticent and august Freud.” — The New Yorker “A masterpiece of contemporary biography... The letters are also a fascinating guide to the man. From them emerges suddenly a tough, jealous, ferocious figure.” — Time

The Life and Work of Sigmund Freud

DigiCat Publishing presents to you this special edition of "Memoirs of an Infantry Officer" by Siegfried Sassoon. DigiCat Publishing considers every written word to be a legacy of humankind. Every DigiCat book has been carefully reproduced for republishing in a new modern format. The books are available in print, as well as ebooks. DigiCat hopes you will treat this work with the acknowledgment and passion it deserves as a classic of world literature.

Heraclitean Fire

Excerpt from *Instead of a Book, by a Man Too Busy to Write One: A Fragmentary Exposition of Philosophical Anarchism* Instead of a book I hear the reader exclaim, as he picks up this volume and glances at its title why, it is a book. To all appearance, yes; essentially, no. It is, to be sure, an assemblage within a cover of printed sheets consecutively numbered but this alone does not constitute a book. A book, properly speaking, is first of all a thing of unity and symmetry, of order and finish it is a literary structure, each part of which is subordinated to the whole and created for it. To satisfy such a standard this volume does not pretend it is not a structure, but an afterthought, a more or less coherent arrangement, each part of which was created almost without reference to any other. Yet not quite so, after all other wise even the smallest degree of coherence were scarcely possible. About the Publisher Forgotten Books publishes hundreds of thousands of rare and classic books. Find more at www.forgottenbooks.com This book is a reproduction of an important historical work. Forgotten Books uses state-of-the-art technology to digitally reconstruct the work, preserving the original format whilst repairing imperfections present in the aged copy. In rare cases, an imperfection in the original, such as a blemish or missing page, may be replicated in our edition. We do, however, repair the vast majority of imperfections successfully; any imperfections that remain are intentionally left to preserve the state of such historical works.

Memoirs of an Infantry Officer

This lively selection brings together journalist and broadcaster Libby Purves' experiences as journalist, parent, governor and former pupil of half a dozen assorted schools from Bangkok to Tunbridge Wells, displaying her eclectic and provocative opinions and ideas on teaching and learning. This collection of the best of her writing in the Times Educational Supplement covers - sometimes thoughtfully, sometimes mockingly - everything from national policy to the eccentricities of headteachers and the limitations of IT. Education professionals over the years have received her outsider view with enthusiasm, laughter, inspiration and occasional fury. From ministerial madness to the pitfalls of uniform and the vagaries of teenagers, this book is dedicated to the amusement of a cadre of professionals Libby once planned to join, until she lost her nerve. It is dedicated, with thanks and admiration, to all teachers.

Instead of a Book, by a Man Too Busy to Write One

This book rants against Freemasonry, Satan, international banks, Napoleon and more. It makes a series of unsubstantiated claims against Jews and possibly substantiated ones against the Rothschilds of his time. If one can put the authors personal biases aside, there remains some good historical information about government, religion, world power and money. The publishers do not agree with the authors biased opinions, but wish to make the remaining facts available to those interested. Conspiracy buffs will enjoy it immensely. The book, in its entirety, should not be taken at face value the truth that exists within it must be carefully extracted.

A Little Learning

Theodore Kaczynski saw violent collapse as the only way to bring down the techno-industrial system, and in more than a decade of mail bomb terror he killed three people and injured 23 others. One does not need to support the actions that landed Kaczynski in supermax prison to see the value of his essays disabusing the notion of heroic technology while revealing the manner in which it is destroying the planet. For the first time, readers will have an uncensored personal account of his anti-technology

philosophy, including a corrected version of the notorious "Unabomber Manifesto," Kaczynski's critique of anarcho-primitivism, and essays regarding "the Coming Revolution."

The Secret World Government Or The Hidden Hand

My Apprenticeship has long been cited as an important and fascinating source for students of social attitudes and conditions in late Victorian Britain, and this new paperback edition makes it once more generally available. Beatrice Webb, the eighth of the nine daughters of the railway magnate Richard Potter, was an exceptionally able person, with a zest for observation, a knack for pointed comment, and a habit of self-examination - all of which gifts she put to good account in the private diary she kept all her life and in this brilliant volume of autobiography which she based on that diary. It tells the story of a craft and a creed, of a withdrawn but talented girl, growing up in a prosperous household, who turned to social investigation and social reform, moving between the two starkly contrasted worlds of West End smart society and East End squalor. She served a hard apprenticeship, as a woman as well as a professional worker, and in a new introduction to this edition Norman MacKenzie describes the severe personal stresses which lay behind her life of dedication to social improvement, particularly her frustrated passion for Joseph Chamberlain and the troubled courtship which preceded her marriage to Sidney Webb. This volume ends on the eve of that marriage, when she was about to begin her famous and astonishingly productive collaboration with her husband. As historians, publicists and Fabian politicians the Webbs were pioneers of the modern age. The ensuing volume, which chronicles their mature career and was appropriately titled *Our Partnership*, is also published by the Cambridge University Press in collaboration with the London School of Economics and Political Science.

Technological Slavery (Large Print 16pt)

This is an original reprinting of the official Moravian missions history with new maps detailing their numerous missionary journeys. This printing is the first of three volumes, and covers the initial years of Moravian missions. Get beyond the myth and pulpit folklore about the Moravians and see what God really did in using this group of believers to bring the Gospel to unreached people groups around the world in the 17th and 18th centuries. This band of refugees, displaced by Catholic persecutions in their own land, found safety with the benevolent Count Zinzendorf in Herrnhut, Germany. After the group experienced a true Holy Spirit revival, Count Zinzendorf found in them a zealous band of dedicated missionaries that carried the Gospel across the world while those back home maintained an unbroken, 24/7 prayer meeting for a hundred years. Just as remarkable is that the Moravians went out with no steady financial support. They were 'tentmakers' in most places they went to enable the rapid spread of workers without reliance on a large home financial support network. The Moravians are among the most significant, and least known, influencers of the modern missions movement that began in the 1700s and continues to today. John Wesley, founder of the Methodist church, witnessed the Moravians during his fateful voyage across the Atlantic, later attributing Moravian influence to his own conversion. William Carey, considered the father of modern missions and a pioneer in bringing the Gospel to India, attributed his initial impetus for missions after reading about the activity of the Moravians. How did God use a band of largely uneducated craftsman and farmers to reach the world? You should read this definitive history of the Moravians to find out!

The World of William Clissold

Originally published: New York: Harper & Brothers, 1924.

My Apprenticeship

Amadeo Bordiga was one of the greatest figures of the Third Communist International. *The Science and Passion of Communism* presents his Soviet and internationalist battles in the revolutionary post-WWI period until that against Stalinism, and those in the post-WWII period against the triumphant U.S. capitalism and for an original, updated re-presentation of Marxist critique of political economy.

A History of Moravian Missions

Although author Gertrude Atherton was born and died in her beloved home state of California, she spent a significant amount of time touring and living in Europe. In *Ancestors*, she puts her experience as a world traveler to good use, spinning an entertaining yarn about several aristocratic English ladies

who decide to liven up their twilight years by touring the rough-and-tumble landscape of the American frontier.

Mark Twain's Autobiography

Anagram Solver is the essential guide to cracking all types of quiz and crossword featuring anagrams. Containing over 200,000 words and phrases, Anagram Solver includes plural noun forms, palindromes, idioms, first names and all parts of speech. Anagrams are grouped by the number of letters they contain with the letters set out in alphabetical order so that once the letters of an anagram are arranged alphabetically, finding the solution is as easy as locating the word in a dictionary.

The Science and Passion of Communism

A history of Hobart Town, Australia.

Ancestors

"It was the best of times. It was the worst of times." The famous opening sentence of Charles Dickens' *Tale of Two Cities* can serve as a motto to characterize the mixture of optimism and pessimism with which a large number of nineteenth-century intellectuals viewed the condition of their age. It is nowadays hardly necessary to accentuate the optimistic elements in the nineteenth-century view of history; many recent historians have sharply contrasted the complacency and the great expectations of the past century with the fears and anxieties rampant in our own age. It is often too readily assumed that a hundred years ago all leading thinkers as well as the educated public were addicted to the cult of progress and ignored or minimized those trends of their times that paved the way for the catastrophes of the twentieth century. In the nineteenth century the intoxicating triumphs of modern science undeniably induced the general public to believe that progress was not an accident but a necessity and that evil and immorality would gradually disappear. Yet fears, misgivings, and anxieties were not as exceptional in the nineteenth century as is often imagined. Such feelings were not restricted to a few dissenting philosophers and poets like Schopenhauer, Kierkegaard, Dostoevsky, Baudelaire, and Nietzsche.

Anagram Solver

Politics, Philosophy, Culture contains a rich selection of interviews and other writings by the late Michel Foucault. Drawing upon his revolutionary concept of power as well as his critique of the institutions that organize social life, Foucault discusses literature, music, and the power of art while also examining concrete issues such as the Left in contemporary France, the social security system, the penal system, homosexuality, madness, and the Iranian Revolution.

Hobart Town

This is a truly unique account of Nazi Germany at war and of one man's struggle against totalitarianism. A mid-level official in a provincial town, Friedrich Kellner kept a secret diary from 1939 to 1945, risking his life to record Germany's path to dictatorship and genocide and to protest his countrymen's complicity in the regime's brutalities. Just one month into the war he is aware that Jews are marked for extermination and later records how soldiers on leave spoke openly about the mass murder of Jews and the murder of POWs; he also documents the Gestapo's merciless rule at home from euthanasia campaigns against the handicapped and mentally ill to the execution of anyone found listening to foreign broadcasts. This essential testimony of everyday life under the Third Reich is accompanied by a foreword by Alan Steinweis and the remarkable story of how the diary was brought to light by Robert Scott Kellner, Friedrich's grandson.

The Sense of Decadence in Nineteenth-Century France

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The Moon Man

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Politics, Philosophy, Culture

Anthony Gottlieb's landmark *The Dream of Reason* and its sequel challenge Bertrand Russell's classic as the definitive history of Western philosophy. Western philosophy is now two and a half millennia old, but much of it came in just two staccato bursts, each lasting only about 150 years. In his landmark survey of Western philosophy from the Greeks to the Renaissance, *The Dream of Reason*, Anthony Gottlieb documented the first burst, which came in the Athens of Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle. Now, in his sequel, *The Dream of Enlightenment*, Gottlieb expertly navigates a second great explosion of thought, taking us to northern Europe in the wake of its wars of religion and the rise of Galilean science. In a relatively short period—from the early 1640s to the eve of the French Revolution—Descartes, Hobbes, Spinoza, Locke, Leibniz, and Hume all made their mark. *The Dream of Enlightenment* tells their story and that of the birth of modern philosophy. As Gottlieb explains, all these men were amateurs: none had much to do with any university. They tried to fathom the implications of the new science and of religious upheaval, which led them to question traditional teachings and attitudes. What does the advance of science entail for our understanding of ourselves and for our ideas of God? How should a government deal with religious diversity—and what, actually, is government for? Such questions remain our questions, which is why Descartes, Hobbes, and the others are still pondered today. Yet it is because we still want to hear them that we can easily get these philosophers wrong. It is tempting to think they speak our language and live in our world; but to understand them properly, we must step back into their shoes. Gottlieb puts readers in the minds of these frequently misinterpreted figures, elucidating the history of their times and the development of scientific ideas while engagingly explaining their arguments and assessing their legacy in lively prose. With chapters focusing on Descartes, Hobbes, Spinoza, Locke, Pierre Bayle, Leibniz, Hume, Rousseau, and Voltaire—and many walk-on parts—*The Dream of Enlightenment* creates a sweeping account of what the Enlightenment amounted to, and why we are still in its debt.

My Opposition

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Advance Australia

'Our Family Affairs, 1867-1896' is a memoir by E.F. Benson about his extraordinary family, including his father Edward White Benson, who once served as the Archbishop of Canterbury. The book also covers his brothers, Robert Hugh Benson, a prolific writer of fiction and a Catholic priest, and Arthur Christopher Benson, a respected essayist and poet, and his sister Margaret Benson, an Egyptologist. Through their individual stories, the book paints a vivid portrait of a remarkable family and their contributions to literature, religion, and scholarship during a pivotal era in history.

The Soviet Famine, 1932-33

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The Siege of Kimberley

This is an informational work on Thomas Jefferson, an American statesman, diplomat, lawyer, architect, philosopher, and Founding Father who served as the third president of the United States from 1801 to 1809. This book comprehensively reviews Thomas Jefferson's education and subsequent political thought. It's not just a biography of Thomas Jefferson but rather an examination of the evolution of his political thought. His views on truth, politics, religion, morality, and the relationships between European entanglements and business are interesting. Moreover, the author intertwines the biography with many quotes from the tremendous volume of letters and journals Jefferson maintained throughout his lifetime.

The Dream of Enlightenment: The Rise of Modern Philosophy

In this book of utopian prophecies, the problems of contemporary human society are theorized and textually rectified. The authors expose the dysfunctions embedded in modern life, from shoddy architecture to the existence of police. Featuring over 125 chapters, countless footnotes, an extended bibliography, four appendices, and a full index, this revised and expanded edition of Blueprints for a Sparkling Tomorrow promises to restore the prospects for a civilization gone mad.

Fiery Stronghold

Mother Earth