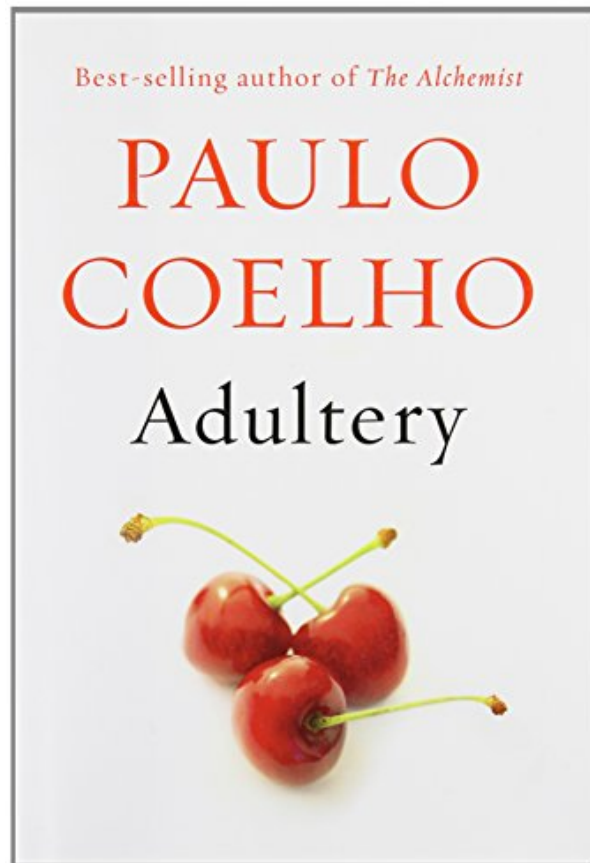


ADULTERY: A NOVEL BY PAULO COELHO



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Best-selling author of *The Alchemist*

PAULO
COELHO

Adultery



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Review

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I consider pushing him away and saying that we're not kids anymore, but I'm enjoying it. Not only did I discover a new Japanese restaurant, I'm having a bit of illicit fun as well. I've managed to break the rules and the world hasn't caved in on me. I haven't felt this happy in a long time.

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I want to change. I need to change. I'm gradually losing touch with myself.

Adultery, the provocative new novel by Paulo Coelho, best-selling author of *The Alchemist* and *Eleven Minutes*, explores the question of what it means to live life fully and happily, finding the balance between life's routine and the desire for something new.

- Sales Rank: #134297 in Books
- Brand: Coelho, Paulo/ Costa, Margaret Jull (TRN)/ Perry, Zod (TRN)
- Published on: 2014-08-19
- Released on: 2014-08-19
- Format: Deckle Edge
- Original language: English
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- Dimensions: 8.57" h x 1.10" w x 5.97" l, 1.00 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 272 pages

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Most helpful customer reviews

292 of 315 people found the following review helpful.

Easy to Misunderstand, Dangerous to Put Down.

By Brendon Burchard

It would be easy to assume this is simply a book about sex and adultery. But people often misunderstand the depths of those things, and thus this is a book of deeper allure and meaning.

This is a story about a woman mad with loneliness and boredom and disconnection, driven to the brink and willing to risk it all to find something more—adventure, passion, redemption, herself. She is not someone you will admire, and she will seem at times superficial and disgusting, but you will understand her. And despite her wealth and ugliness, despite her weakness, her indiscretion, her bizarre thinking, you might just learn something from her. And that is why this is a book for anyone in a relationship. What relationship doesn't get ugly at times?

What Coelho does so brilliantly in "Adultery" is pace its story with its main character's life, struggles, and personality. And so it feels a bit boring and stifled at first, then it shocks and overreacts, then it has trouble finding itself, and then, finally, after all those relationship troubles and veiled justifications, it lifts and soars. For these reasons, people will want to stop reading when it feels slow, trite, or impossible. But there is danger in putting a Coelho book down, for in the end he always surprises us and teaches us. Anyone in love or after love can learn something from this book.

Here are my favorite quotes:

“Today I am a woman torn between the terror that everything might change and the equal terror that everything might carry on exactly the same for the rest of my days.”

“Apathy. Pretending to be happy, pretending to be sad, pretending to have an orgasm, pretending to be having fun, pretending that you've slept well, pretending that you're alive.”

“We don't show our feelings because people might think we're vulnerable and take advantage of us.”

“I discovered what was really troubling me: a lack of passion and adventure.”

“If Evil exists, it's to be found in our fears.”

“To find peace in the heavens, we must find love on Earth. Without it, we are worthless.”

“In the pursuit of justice, I have to ward off evil without exasperation or impatience.”

“We're always practicing self-control, trying to keep the monster from coming out of his hiding place.”

“We are the ones who create messes in our heads. It does not come from the outside.”

“We were no longer completely surrendering to each other.”

“For men it is just a 'stupid mistake.' For women, it feels like a spiritual crime against all those who surround her with affection and support her as a mother and wife.”

“They are maintaining the security of their relationship at the same time they experience adventure. It’s the ideal situation.”

“It has more to do with boredom, with a lack of passion for life, with a shortage of challenges.”

“Because, ever since we’ve moved away from God, we live a fragmented existence. We try to find oneness, but we don’t know the way back; thus, we are in a state of constant dissatisfaction.”

“David [from the Bible’s David and Goliath story] not only committed adultery, he also ordered the murder of his rival, betraying his loyalty and goodwill.”

“In short, I’ve stopped being the reserved woman I always was.”

“Love alone is not enough. I need to fall in love with my husband.”

“Because I always have to show I’m worthy of your love. I have to fight for our marriage, for our union, in ways that have nothing to do with our children. I love you. I would endure anything, absolutely anything, to always have you by my side. But I can’t stop you from leaving one day.”

“I’m not afraid of loneliness, I’m afraid of deluding myself, of looking at reality the way I would like it to be and not how it really is.”

“People have a tendency for self-destruction.”

“What kills a relationship between two people is precisely the lack of challenge, the feeling that nothing is new anymore. We need to continue to be a surprise for each other.”

“When we give everything, we have nothing more to lose. And then fear, jealousy, boredom, and monotony disappear, and all that remains is the light form a void that does not frighten us, but brings us closer to one another.”

“Let us first seek Love, and everything else will be added.”

If any of these quotes resonate with you, or if you are in a troubled relationship or have ever cheated or been cheated upon, this book will resonate, perhaps reveal why, and ultimately provide the only reminder we all need: We must learn to Love.

-- Brendon Burchard, author of *Life’s Golden Ticket*

91 of 99 people found the following review helpful.

what is happiness?

By moysak

ok... just finished *Adultery* and I really liked it. It's a different style/genre for Coelho but I did truly enjoy it. You do have to be open-minded to read it though... I feel like the negative reviews I've read might be coming from scorned people or those that can't see "outside" the box. It is as the title suggest about sex outside the marriage but that's not the message of the book. And if that's all you get then you didn't really read the book... I think it's about self-discovery. About self-acceptance and self-love. The most important in life to truly be happy. No one else can nor should be responsible for that but yourself.

84 of 93 people found the following review helpful.

Adultery

By Damaskcat

To say this is a book about a woman committing adultery is to miss the whole point of the story I feel. Linda lives in Switzerland with her husband and two children - none of whom are ever named. She has a good life, and an interesting job as a journalist and as a family they are financially secure with domestic staff to look after the children and do the housework. Who could want anything more from life?

But Linda is restless and bored. It would be all too easy to dismiss Linda as shallow but she is far more than that. I'm sure many readers will put the book down in disgust saying she should count her blessings and no one could want more in life. Things are not as simple as that. Linda feels she is plodding along from day to day with nothing exciting in her life - everything is just dull. She wonders if she is depressed but she doesn't think she is. She wonders whether she needs to see a psychiatrist but doesn't think that will work either.

It must be difficult to empathise with Linda unless you yourself have felt that sort of restlessness. I have felt it and it resulted in me turning my life upside down and doing some things which maybe were not a good idea though they seemed the only right thing to do at the time. What lesson you take from this strangely absorbing book - because there are lessons to be learned from it even if your life in no way resembles Linda's - are always going to be personal. But what I think is important is to not let yourself slip into a rut because if you get in too deep then the only way out is going to be to upend your life and those of the people you love.

This is a book which needs the reader to do some hard thinking about their own lives and to be aware that restlessness and boredom can lead to constructive change or it can lead to destruction. Everyone has their own agenda and if you're using them they may equally be using you. Thoughtful and thought provoking - this book may well repay a second or third reading. I received a free copy of this book from NetGalley for review purposes.

See all 734 customer reviews...

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The president of the country changes every year (yes, every year) and is chosen not by the people, but by the

Federal Council, a body comprising seven ministers who serve as Switzerland's collective head of state. Every time I walk past the museum, I see endless posters calling for more plebiscites.

The Swiss love to make decisions—the color of our trash bags (black came out on top), the right (or not) to carry arms (Switzerland has one of the highest gun-ownership rates in the world), the number of minarets that can be built in the country (four), and whether or not to provide asylum for expatriates (I haven't kept pace with this one, but I imagine the law was approved and is already in force).

"Excuse me, sir."

We've been interrupted once already. He politely asks his assistant to postpone his next appointment. My newspaper is the most important in French-speaking Switzerland and this interview could prove crucial for the upcoming elections.

He pretends to convince me and I pretend to believe him.

Then I get up, thank him, and say that I have all the material I need.

"You don't need anything else?" Of course I do, but it's not up to me to tell him what. "How about getting together after work?" I explain that I have to pick up my children from school, hoping that he sees the large gold wedding ring on my finger declaring: "Look, the past is the past."

"Of course. Well, maybe we can have lunch someday."

I agree. Easily deceived, I think: Who knows, maybe he does have something of importance to tell me, some state secret that will change the politics of the country and make the editor look at me with new eyes.

He goes over to the door, locks it, then comes back and kisses me. I return his kiss, because it's been a long time. Jacob, whom I may have once loved, is now a family man, married to a professor. And I am a family woman, married to a man who, though he inherited his wealth, is extremely hardworking.

I consider pushing him away and saying that we're not kids anymore, but I'm enjoying it. Not only did I discover a new Japanese restaurant, I'm having a bit of illicit fun as well. I've managed to break the rules and the world hasn't caved in on me. I haven't felt this happy in a long time.

I feel better and better, braver, freer. Then I do something I've dreamed of doing since I was in school.

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