



Rebels and Devils: The Psychology of Liberation

Christopher S. Hyatt

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Features some of the most talented, controversial and rebellious people including William S Burroughs, Dr Timothy Leary, Robert Anton Wilson and Aleister Crowley who focus on bringing freedom to their world.

Rebels and Devils: The Psychology of Liberation Details

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From Reader Review Rebels and Devils: The Psychology of Liberation for online ebook

Matthew says

there is no god without devil. and neither matters.

this collection of writings by a multitude of front-line practitioners is simply amazing. be a rebel and browse through it, if yr strong enough to consider yr own grisly death daily.

Keith says

A rather eclectic collection of essays and excerpts, which I think is true to its title in having the idea of personal liberty as its connecting thread more so than the concepts of spirituality, magick generally, or chaos magic specifically, as one might expect on the basis of Dr. Hyatt's other work, though all of these are well represented.

Of particular interest to me were "Living Thelema" by Jack Parsons (not be be confused with the similar title by David Shoemaker) on which I wound up basing a class; the interview with Israel Regardie, which showed more of his humanity than anything I'd yet encountered; and the concise overview of e-prime by RAW, which greatly increased my interest in following up that topic. This also served to introduce me to a number of authors with whom I was unfamiliar and whom I am now more likely to seek out.

All in all, I'd say this is quite a reasonable starting point for anyone interested in iconoclastic ideas, whose mind is already open enough to entertain the absurd, the bizarre, and the outright maniacal long enough to discern paths for future investigation in greater depth.

Chris says

This book reaches really high and gets most of the way there through strong writing by many of the 20th century's best publicly known esotericists, such as William S. Burroughs, Timothy Leary, Robert Anton Wilson, Austin Osman Spare, Genesis P-Orridge, Aleister Crowley, Israel Regardie, Jack Parsons, and others...

Lou says

Most sections seemed to be just filler-text, but a few articles changed my perspective and opened me to new worlds.

kate says

Would reread essays in first two thirds. Last third was not very interesting or good. Favorites were beyond the event horizon, crowley's rebellion. Parts 1 and 2 definitely the best.

Jennifer Bassindale says

This is a great book for removing the cobwebs one gathers over time as parts of the brain switch off and stagnate as we get stuck in the monotony of daily life. It is a 'get back on track' book, for me at least.

The 'interview' sections between Hyatt and Regardie I did find rather tedious and long winded and somewhat 'cringey', and also almost 'thee' last chapter 'ov' the book, wrote by some Genesis P-Orridge fellow was like trying to climb a frickin mountain, I know brain change is not meant to be easy.. First, there is a mountain.. Then there is'nt... Then there is.. I still don't see his mountain but what of it.

The rest of the book far makes up for any slight grievances I may have felt, intolerance is evidence of impotence, yes I know.

I particularly liked 'The Calling of The Holy Whore, but then I would wouldn't I. Osho's chapter brought me some revelations. I really don't need to pass comment on the Crowley, Austin Osman Spare, Parsons, Hyatt or Robert Anton Wilson's sections or I would be here all day, for some there are no words anyway, just 'feelings'. More cobwebs blown away by S. Jason Black's chapter 'How the Marquis de Sade Saved My Life' and 'The Fourteen Steps' by Daniel Suders, enjoyed both of those immensely.

I got a lot from this book, not to say that you will hence my reluctance to lend it out. I feel that some may read it and feel absolutely nothing at all and would just look at me with a puzzled expression, but you never know, I have hope. I will be back to read it again if I feel certain parts of my brain are becoming cobwebbed once more, I wont leave it so late next time.

Alexander says

I started reading this book a year or so ago, and just finished it yesterday. It wasn't that it was really bad; it was mostly just because I never put time into reading it. The contents of the book was a collection of writings from different authors. Some where personal experiences, historical events with personal opinion / interpretation.

Others where personal philosophy, the central theme was told from the point of view of an outcast of society. Supporting this kind of life style, so of course you had criminal elements, anti government rhetoric, anti religion, and new age beliefs. Some of it was quite interesting to me personally, but a lot of it was just a way for me to gain insight into a different world view.

The book made a lot of false claims, as can be expected with told from the outcast. But other than that I kind of liked reading the book. As others have said, it felt as though portions of some of the entry's where just filler. That they repeated what they'd already said numerous times to get that word count which made reading it less fluid.

Another aspect was that some of the writing entry's were just kind of bad, now I don't mean bad in terms of content or viewpoint. Just the writing style, as if they were having trouble putting what they wanted to say into a coherent paragraph.

Tom Schulte says

It is easy to assume from the outside that Satanism is merely ceremonial anti-Christian devil worship, and drug use and homosexuality are something between personal choice recreations and tolerable societal ills. Hyatt combines over 400 pages of articles from William S. Burroughs, Austin Osman Spare, Timothy Leary and more to intellectualize such activities as some of the manifold paths to realizing full human potential. It is in the analysis of the life and motivations of Aleister Crowley and the candid, in-depth interview with Israel Regardie that the savage breaking of taboos is seen as a tool. The interview by Hyatt with Regardie and the following Crowley analysis by psychologist Richard Kaczynski are the core of the book, literally and figuratively. This strips the mystique off occult activity and rebellious behavior and describes them within the confines of a methodology. To quote Kaczynski in "Taboo & Transformation": "The ceremonial magick championed by Crowley...is, in a nutshell, alchemy: The transformation of one's base character into gold. ...If psychological triggers can precipitate spiritual change, then the taboos socially programmed into us can act as triggers for major spiritual transformation."
