



The Journeys of Socrates

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In nineteenth-century Tsarist Russia an orphaned child born of Jewish and Cossack blood grows up in a land of wealthy aristocrats, struggling peasants, and growing discontent. Sent to an elite military academy at the tender age of four, Sergei Ivanov (Socrates) comes of age training to protect a way of life he doesn't understand. When a sudden death forces Sergei to flee, he escapes into the wilderness.

With nothing to cling to but a memory of his grandfather and the promise of a gift buried near St. Petersburg, Sergei journeys across a harsh land to seek his place in the world. The adventure that unfolds is not about the revolutions of history, but about the revolution in one man's heart. A stirring story of tragedy and triumph emerges as Sergei encounters mentors and masters who reveal secrets about the arts of war and, ultimately, the path to peace. From the heights of love to the depths of despair, from the threat of a mortal enemy to the search for a child he has never met, Sergei Ivanov's odyssey unlocks hidden wisdom at the heart of life. He could never have imagined that from the moment of his birth he was destined to become the peaceful warrior who would change the lives of millions worldwide.

The Journeys of Socrates Details

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Author : Dan Millman

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Bogdan says

It is a breathtaking book. If you have ever come across some of Dan Milman's books your mind will be blown away. It is by far the greatest breakthrough of understanding something I cannot even shape at the moment. I am happy that the world has such a person as Dan. Thank you for your great masterpiece.

Wayland Smith says

One of my few books that I reread is Way of the Peaceful Warrior: A Book That Changes Lives. It's the sort of philosophy stuff I usually don't like, but that one has something to it that draws me in. So, when I heard about this book, which tells the back story of Socrates, the mentor in that book, I thought I'd check it out.

I will say right off the bat whatever magic is in Peaceful Warrior isn't here. This is a decent story of adventure, loss, and a man growing up in Tsarist Russia. It was a good read with a few twists along the way. At the very end, there's a reveal about a tie between Dan Millman, the author and character of the first book, and Socrates.

It's enjoyable, but nowhere near as insightful as the other book. Decent action with a bit of philosophy along the way. It's like a better written martial arts movie in an unusual setting.

Alexander Murphy says

"In truth, Socrates, you have no opponents but yourself.

Make peace within, and there will be no one who can overcome you.

And no one you will wish to overcome." I just finished reading Journeys of Socrates, which was a fantastic and exciting book. Recommended to me by a good friend who also enjoying the book thoroughly, it's a historical story of latter Czarist Russia involving the Cossacks, the Jews, and the intense military procedures as it was in that time. It's a certain type of book that stays with you and you keep thinking about it and turning over all the details in your brain.

You will enjoy reading the descriptions of a young Russians adventure for life, in a book that is quite hard to put down once started. Throughout this unforgettable story, the military trained Socrates ends up, after a disaster, having to flee to wilderness, in a battle for his life as he knows it. The characters are quite deep, featuring qualities and characteristics which tend to stick with the reader, almost as if the adventure was his or her own. In addition to the easily attachable characters, the actual tale is not short of complete and surprising plot twists, right up to the final revelations in the very few last pages. Without revealing too much of the major concepts of the story, the ending is quite amazing. Highly recommended.

Lauky says

"Expect nothing, Be Ready for Everything", based on this key philosophy, This books journeys us from happiness to great sorrow and back, without bringing these feelings in our psyche. Again in a life changing book, Dan Millman has provided us the insights to learn from within.

Wellington says

My Sensei gave me homework for class to read a book "The Peaceful Warrior" of a college graduate who befriended a white hair sage working as a gas attendant. Though he was first irritated by him, he returned, became friends, and found the peaceful warrior within himself.

This is a story of Socrates, that white haired sage, who lived in Russia. His mother died and he was shipped to a military academy to become a Cossack. Trouble was he didn't know he had Jewish blood in him and instead of becoming a legendary Cossack he just became a gas attendant.

The story was heart-wrenching watching him experience difficult times and people. I don't want to get into too many details and spoil the twists and turns of the story. Just remember, it's a much darker story and it's the last third of the pages that the light begins shining at the end of tunnel.

Leanna Manuel says

This book is a prequel of sorts to the Peaceful Warrior books. I was quite excited when this new book was announced and I certainly wasn't disappointed once it arrived. Beyond his exceptional ability as a storyteller, Dan Millman succinctly captures the essence of our modern yearnings for lives that make sense, sanity, and warriorship.

The book is set in Tsarist Russia and follows the life of Sergei Ivanov from early childhood through his adult years. He is the one who is called Socrates in the other Peaceful Warrior books. There is a blend of culture, tragedy, violence, mysticism, and martial technology that keeps the reader fully engaged no matter what their preferred genre.

More than just a novel, The Journeys of Socrates can be viewed as a parable or metaphor for living in today's complex world. Serge learns many lessons (most of them the hard way), and they have definite application today.

Annie says

It is pure wonder that the human heart can not only survive but presevere over severe tragedy and loss. In this final installment of the Peaceful Warrior series we learn about the man called Socrates and his life of extreme heartache and loss. However, through it all he blossoms in to a being more disciplined and amazing than most. Rising above and conquering himself he becomes the Socrates we know and love from the Way

of the Peaceful Warrior. If you have not read this series you must. It will help give you amazing insight about our role in life and the journeys we all embark on, as well as an understanding of who you are deep within.

Heather says

If you really want to see someone overcome major suffering, this is the book for you. Everything that can possibly go wrong in his life does. However, this man turns out to use everything he learned from tragedy and taught others with it. This is based upon journals by Dan Millman's teacher Socrates of Way of the Peaceful Warrior fame.

Gatlianne Gatlianne says

Having read "Way of a Peaceful Warrior" years ago, I quickly bought "The Journeys of Socrates" but it sat on the shelf unread. The Universe has a way of working things out so recently I noticed the book in a box of books still packed from a move. I decided it was time to read.

The Universe was correct.

Though I had trouble getting into the beginning of the book, things turned around and soon I was drawn into the journey. The beginning tells the history of Socrates and at first I didn't see the relevance and wondered where "the good stuff" was; I later realized that this history was a key part of understanding Socrates, where he'd come from and what he overcame to become the person he was at the end of the book.

Socrates' journey is so much like many in life. We hold on to anger and resentments and they overcome us, possess us. We hold them for years just as Socrates did. I only hope that more in the world learn to grow, evolve and let go of such anger and resentment to move on to the next level of themselves.

Millman's prequel to "Way of a Peaceful Warrior" is an outstanding tome depicting Socrates' path to becoming a peaceful warrior. The book is filled with guidance and truth. I underlined many sentences throughout my reading.

Adrian Fridge says

Part truth, part fiction--*The Journeys of Socrates* is the retelling of the author's great-grandfather's legacy, taken from first-hand accounts and peppered with artistic license. In this journey, we're taken through the hardship and heartache of chosen allegiances, conditional love, and dutiful vengeance, all wrapped in deep philosophical insight. This is not an easy read, but it's surely very satisfying.

Set in anti-semitic Russia, Sergei Ivanov, also known as Socrates, is a man with a conflicting heritage. His mother is Jewish, and his father is a (Christian) Cossack, both dying in Sergei's early years. Sergei is sent to Cossack military school, where we're introduced to his ultimate antagonist: Dmitri Zakolyev. All I'll say is: *Shit gets real*.

The story begins with Sergei maturing into adulthood, from his school years to his time in St. Petersburg. There is the recurring reminder of his Jewish blood, his grandfather trying to infuse some of that spirit during their short time together, and Sergei ultimately finds family among the Jews. This is painfully short-lived, and God how I cried and boiled with rage. You'll want revenge as much as Sergei, and like him, you won't be given a quick resolution. Brutal vengeance wouldn't be enough to truly undo the damage done.

We're taken through Sergei's grieving process and are ultimately led to a Christian monastery where he finds a mentor agreeing to train him for his revenge. The mentor has a lot to teach us, much of it needing many years to mull over and absorb. While religion has a role in defining the characters, the book does *not* push religious ideology. The inclusion of "God's will" should be taken as a basis of accepting everything happens for a reason and that things have a way of working out, which is indeed the case for Sergei.

One of my biggest hurdles in reading, and reviewing, this story is the level of catharsis with me being a Jew from the former Soviet Union. Sergei's adversaries are the unrepentant faces of egotism, lashing out from their hidden self-loathing and needing a scapegoat for their failures. They are sadistic, gaining pleasure from unjustified cruelty--the worst of humanity given the loftiest praises. I wanted them to pay so badly, yet how foolish would it be to find solace in the same barbarity as the monsters? Truly, the only way to find peace is to start with myself--to kill hate with kindness.

The unfolding of events in *The Journeys of Socrates* inspires hope, whether you believe in the concept of God's will or not. There is sweet closure, and it resounds into the Epilogue where Dan Millman reveals how he discovered his great grandfather's adventures. It's a journey well worth it in the end.

{Check out this review at **Entropy Alarm Reviews**}

Rhiannon says

This book is the most powerful, compelleing and insperational jounery that you as a reader will ever go on full of hope loss and guidence you will read this book and never want to put it down untill you get to the end. the end of this book is just mind blowing I recomend everyone to read this book as it sets the bar high for novels from this genre.

Julie says

I was catapulted into the heart of a man's search for revenge, and almost taking on his feelings myself. Through his journey I felt as if I were there, beside him, and as "we" continued toward our goal of revenge, my heart lightened and my soul filled with love and forgiveness. I read this book while going through an intense recovery phase in my life and for the first time in years, I regained my faith in God and KNEW the meaning of forgiveness. Amazing, simply amazing.

Holden Guillies says

This was a fantastic read. "The Journey of Socrates" followed a young boy, Sergei Ivanov, all the way into his adulthood. Sergei spent his childhood in a military academy In Russia during the late 19th century. Sergei

was a jewish boy and he learned of the pogroms in Russia when he was in his early teens. Put in a tough spot, Sergei had to choose between the military academy where his uncle, his only family left, was the instructor, or he could pave the way for his own life. Sergei chose to create his own life. Sergei's life is filled with tough decisions, uncertainty, and battles between nature, others, and himself in order for Sergei to survive. "The Journey of Socrates" is filled with stunning plot twists and excellent moral lessons of the value of a human life.

I loved the wild setting and great detail used to describe the character's appearances and emotions. The insanity of Sergei's rival was also a great component to this story, as he almost tries to steal Sergei's life. Every time I started reading I was plunged into the world of Russia in the late 1800's and found myself never wanting to leave.

This book deserves more than 5 stars.

JC says

Just when I didn't think Millman could surpass his first book, *The Way of the Peaceful Warrior*, the book that truly changed my life and outlook on the universe. This book tells the journey of his enigmatic mentor, Socrates; from his humble and tragic beginnings to his enlightened training. How was this amazing master formed? The book is based in the Ukraine region of Russia, with Sergei "Socrates" Ivanov being cast as a half Cossack/half Jew (quite the explosive combination, as you can imagine), struggling to understand himself and his place in life. Only through great personal tragedy, loss and the need for revenge does he begin to understand the path he was set upon. Only in seeking out his great teacher, a monk called Seraphim, does he discover both the path of the warrior and the path of peace. It's a beautiful and heart-felt story that is filled with Millman's great wisdoms and insights into life. However, even though Millman has put "The first book in the Peaceful Warrior series" on the cover, I recommend reading "*The Way of the Peaceful Warrior*" and possibly "*Sacred Journey of the Peaceful Warrior*" before "*The Journeys of Socrates*."

Jakob Masic says

If I could give this countless stars I would. There are also countless ways to describe how special this book is, that I don't know where to begin. I would like to say this. It is the best story I've ever heard, or read, and is hard for me to imagine I could ever read anything like it again, and believe me when I tell you, I have an active imagination.

On a few occasions I found my jaw just dropping, putting down the book for a second to try and absorb what just happened, then quickly and eagerly back to see what great revelation was coming next.

Dan Millman's writing has truly evolved from the Way of the peaceful warrior, the way ones spirit and mind will evolve after reading this masterpiece.

I feel thankful, and blessed to have come across these pages, and will try to share with as many people this experience, so they too can grow with the miracle of Socrates Journey.

Wendy says

If asked to rate this book at the half way mark I would have given it 3 stars. Honestly, it was a little slow in parts. But the END - wow - I didn't see that coming and it struck a deep cord with me. What a beautiful story!

You have to read The Way of the Peaceful Warrior first, or it won't have the same impact.

Jason says

This book is Dan Millman's third in the Peaceful Warrior Saga. I didn't know quite what to expect but had heard this book changed course from his previous writings. This is true because this book is more of a narrative as opposed to the other Peaceful books which tend to be a little more instructional.

The Journeys of Socrates is about the early life of Millman's guru, Socrates. It starts off with recounting his early boyhood in a Russian military school. Orphaned and distraught at having to stay in the school the young Socrates escapes. He starts to build an enjoyable life for himself as a young man with a wife only to meet tragedy. A key nemesis from his old military school days shows up and contributes to a horrific tragedy of unimaginable proportions. Socrates can think of nothing else but revenge. He spends his days and years after this plotting for ways to get back at the evil he has experienced.

As the book progresses Socrates meets many new teachers. These teachers are Masters of certain disciplines (like the martial arts) but more importantly they are Masters of life in general. After years of hard work these wise teachers teach Socrates how to live, breathe, forgive and find happiness. He comes to discover that the only way he can truly be free is by releasing this awful burden of hate he carries around day after day. It's a very wise but painful lesson. For obvious reasons I am not divulging everything but suffice it to say you'll be surprised, horrified, entertained, and inspired by the end of the book.

Concerning the book, I felt the story was very good but the writing seemed a little rough around the edges. I got the impression that Millman, despite having written several other books, is still learning his craft as a narrative type storyteller. It seemed in parts he could have developed the plot more thoroughly and provided more realistic detail for certain key players. Despite these minor flaws I still enjoyed the book tremendously for the insight, wisdom, and entertaining nature of it all. There is nothing better than being able to read an exciting story and also learn how to live in a better way at the same time.

Anyone who enjoys personal transformation, inspiring stories, and fascinating characters will really treasure this read. I only hope that in the future Dan continues to write, teach, and give us more timeless advice from the Warrior/Buddha Socrates.

Anirudh says

This is a wonderful book. Full of inspiration and joy the Journey of Socrates is simply compelling.

Aravind says

The Journeys of Socrates is the story of a young boy's journey towards becoming a man, through a life of hardship, trial and a lot of pain, and his ultimate triumph over his circumstances, and, *himself*. The journey passes through the vast and varied landscape of Tsarist Russia as well as the emotional and spiritual terrain of the young protagonist. The writing is so fluid that it took me only two or three sittings to complete this book; the pace doesn't flag even during the philosophical discourses. The main characters are well built and command the reader's care about their lives. The only thing that I felt lacking in this wonderful story is some background of Dmitri and some insight into the reasons behind his actions.

Having never heard of this author before a friend recommended this book to me, I now look forward to reading more books by Dan Millman, after reading this one.

Faith Tydings says

This was a good book. Very dark in places but when it was all over, it was amazing how everything was interwoven and connected. I'm excited to read the rest of the books in the series.
