



Nein: A Manifesto

Eric Jarosinski

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Nein. A Manifesto is the brainchild of Eric Jarosinski, the self-described “failed intellectual” behind @NeinQuarterly, a “Compendium of Utopian Negation” that uses the aphoristic potential of Twitter to plumb the existential abyss of modern life — and finds it bottomless.

Nein is not no. Nein is not yes. Nein is nein.

Nein believes in nothing. Militantly.

Nein does not take questions.

Nein regrets to inform you.

Nein is not style. Nein is not syntax.

Nein does not thank you for shopping.

Nein is not the medium. Nein is not the message.

Nein says no. To a yes. That is a no.

Nein closes its eyes to your surveillance state. Your dating profile. Your dreams. And hears the sea.

Stridently hopeless and charmingly dour, *Nein. A Manifesto* is an irreverent philosophical investigation into the everyday that sounds the call to rediscover its strangeness. Inspired by the aphorisms of Nietzsche, Karl Kraus, Walter Benjamin, and Theodor W. Adorno, Jarosinski’s epigrammatic style reinvents short-form philosophy for a world doomed to distraction.

As tenets of a rather unorthodox manifesto, Jarosinski’s four-line compositions seek to illuminate our most urgent questions. And the least. The result is a compelling and thought-provoking translation of digital into print. Theory into praxis. And tragedy into farce.

Nein: A Manifesto Details

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Author : Eric Jarosinski

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From Reader Review Nein: A Manifesto for online ebook

Frank says

Should you read this book? Nein. Would I recommend it? Nein. Read it anyways.

Jenni Valentine says

The witty aphorisms contained in this little book made me laugh to the point of tears at times, and I spent a good few hours joking with a couple of old professors about the excerpts that related to their field's of study. I have to say, it was as a whole, a most agreeable little book for all of its nihilistic tendencies. Nein: A Manifesto is definitively one of the best little academic stocking stuffer books I have ever had the pleasure of picking up (on par with Julie Schumacher's Dear Committee Members).

Of the witticisms contained in Nein: A Manifesto a few of my favorites were:

#ReadingList

In spring: Proust. In Paris.

In summer: Kerouac. On the road.

In fall: Sontag. In New York.

In winter: Dostoevsky. In a cold wind.

And a thin coat.

#CloseReading

Perhaps Marx is best read as a religion.

Freud as literature.

Woolf as economics.

And Nietzsche as Nietzsche.

#ConsumerConfidences

It's not you.

It's your brand.

It's not me.

It's my demographic.

(A thing I cannot say about the MIT Press Bookstore.)

#MediaTheory

Another beautiful day.

For the medium.

Another existential crisis.

For the message.

#HardCopy

No.

Print is not a waste of paper.

But yes.

A waste of words.

It was a true joy to read and share. I shall be sending the copy I have me to a friend of mine sometime this week. Some things are too wonderful to keep to ourselves.

Tim says

A compilation of bleakly tongue in cheek epigrams for the twitter age. Nein is nihilism skewering itself - but is that not what nihilism does best? Since nihilism destroys everything that human beings construct meaning from, it is inevitable that it fall upon its own sword. The glossary at the back is a successor to The Unabridged Devil's Dictionary. Examples:

Anxiety: Fear of the unknown. (Depression: Fear of the known.)

Change: What you want. When, where, and how you do not want it.

Mid-life crisis: The sudden realization that you've been dying all along.

Society: a system of errors.

Humour as black as Tartarus and as dry as the Sahara. There is probably something in here to vex almost any demographic.

Hamed says

It was recommended by Readings' staff and was described as "wickedly funny" with a philosophical look at modern life. It is a small book of aphorisms which are philosophical, witty and some bitterly true. There is also a glossary at the end which is worth going through word by word. I mention some in here:

- Anxiety: Fear of the unknown.
- Depression: Fear of the known.
- Atheism: A religion without a prayer.
- Religion: A set of beliefs about why yours are wrong.
- Coffee: The diuretic of enlightenment.
- Consumption: Capitalism's drug of choice.
- Internet, the: A network of cables, wires and tubes connecting us all. To cables. Wires. And Tubes.
- Life: A leading cause of death.
- Peace: What everybody's fighting for.
- Science: The art of method.
- Smart phone: A device designed for working too late and dying too soon.
- Selfie: A portrait of someone we used to know. Taken by someone we used to respect.
- Weekend: The two days of the week when your alienation is all your own.

I found them very true!

Jon(athan) Nakapalau says

Jean Baudrillard would be so happy with this! Philosophy deconstructed and then reproduced in the hyperreality of the internet!

Diego Ospina says

Hilarante, divertido e irreverente. Realmente disfrute su lectura. El pesimismo satírico cala entre los lectores al referirse en un formato sencillo a temas cotidianos.

Jeremy says

I've read it through and still pick it up regularly, just to read a page or two and put it back down. It grows on you too. And it inspires you. The philosophy of Nein is interestingly and vaguely serious, it's like you can maybe see something in it, that there must be something in it, which is what makes it so funny, too.

And I'm now learning German partly because of this book.

James says

Nein Quarterly is a Twitter account (@NeinQuarterly) that spoofs philosophy and higher education. In the words of its creator, Nein Quarterly is "a 'Compendium of Utopian Negation' that uses the aphoristic potential of Twitter to plumb the existential abyss of modern life—and finds it bottomless." It is often very funny with its take on philosophy and nihilism. This book is a quick reading entertaining extension of the Twitter account. It is very much in the vein of the Twitter feed; fans will enjoy it though it does not really break any new ground.

[I received an advanced e-galley of this book through Netgalley. It is due to be published September 8, 2015.]

Tom says

Eric Jarosinski's *Nein: A Manifesto* should be given to all new graduates of high school and college and even to—why not? one is never too old—recent retirees. *Nein* is a manifesto of refusal, in the curmudgeonly manner of Adorno (that's him on the cover) or Thomas Bernhard—more like Bernhard, though, in the charm of its unrelieved ranting, minus the tendency of Bernhard's narrators to breathlessly denounce for unpunctuated pages at a time. Jarosinski's voice here is in service to the Tweet, his aphorisms here originally published on his Twitter feed.

Although Jarosinski prefaces *Nein* with a line from Adorno (“The pleasure of thinking is not to be recommended”), what Jarosinski attacks is a cultural tendency to not think. “Ideology: The mistaken belief that your beliefs are neither beliefs nor mistaken.”

Frankly, I love a good hater so long as he is articulate and intelligent. A good hater doesn’t give himself the benefit of the doubt, either: “#HowToFindHappiness / Think of where you last saw it. / See if it’s still there. / If it’s not, ask yourself why it left. / If it is, ask yourself why you didn’t stay.”

And who has never felt that “Only two problems with the world today. / 1. The world. / And 2. Today. / Three, if you count tomorrow”?

I don’t know if *Nein* is just a one-off from Jarosinski, or if he’ll try on the mantle of Adorno’s ghost for another book. He has great comic sensibility—could he fulfill Wittgenstein’s assertion that it should be possible to write a book of philosophy made up entirely by jokes? *Nein* could be read as a first go at it. Black humor succinctly highlights absurd contradictions in our times, culture, and behaviors. And so does *Nein*.

Colin Cox says

I suspect Jarosinski would enjoy knowing that I had no idea what this book was about before I read it. So figure my surprise when I realized that *Nein. A Manifesto* is a collection of tweets from a Theodor Adorno-inspired Twitter account started by a failed academic. Yet despite my initial trepidation, *Nein* is a wonderfully pithy attempt at synthesizing philosophical ideas in an aphoristic modality that seems to represent our contemporary culture: Twitter. I’ve read this book twice in as many days (not a remarkable accomplishment considering what the book is) and the second reading was far less jarring.

The glossary is also incredible intriguing. Walter Benjamin’s entry, for example, reads, “The mourning of philosophy cut short by history” (117). An entry like this represents Jarosinski’s tone and approach to his subject matter: coy, disarming, but reverent nevertheless.

I strongly recommend *Nein* for anyone familiar with Marx, The Frankfurt School, cultural theory, political theory, philosophy, and you know, any “ism” that I failed to mention. Read it twice though. I certainly enjoyed it more the second time.

Elyse Walters says

“I’d like to think that a depressing joke about cultural pessimism and despair has occasionally managed to brighten someone’s day.”

YES.... Eric Jarosinski..... THANK YOU.... you 'did' brighten my day.

I've been in a hot pink leg cast for weeks now...mostly stuck indoors while my husband works during the day. I've got my books, iPad, and crutches at my side.

Paul, my husband, packs an ice cooler with yogurt, apples, and such .. so I don't waste away to bones

Today... being the weekend afternoon...I had a special treat.., with Paul's help.., I set up camp in the yard...on

the lawn...on beach towels, and extra pillows to elevate my leg.
Your book of aphorisms kept me smiling... "brightening my day", !!!!

Eric Jarosinski's little book is witty, charming, (sometimes depressing in a 'haha' way), and just darn enjoyable...(especially while sunbathing under a tree in your own yard... sharing these gems with a partner)

A few favorites:

#How to Find Happiness:

Think of where you last saw it

See if it's still there

If it's not, ask yourself why it left

If it is, ask yourself why you didn't stay.

#Trial and Error:

In Fall: Read Kafka

In Winter: Understand Kafka

In Spring: Fall in love with Kafka

In Summer: Forget Kafka on the beach.

#Arrange Your Book:

By those who taught you love.

Those that taught you true love.

Those that taught you to love books.

And those that taught you if you if love is ever true, it's in books.

Reading this little treasure was my first introduction to Eric Jarosinski's. He calls himself a "Failed intellectual".

Cerebral thinkers will get a kick out of this book.

Me: I just simply enjoyed it!

Thank you to Grove Atlantic - Netgalley- and Eric Jarosinski! (it was a delight having my day 'brighter').

howl of minerva says

Aphoristic gems of humour for philosophy nerds.

A few favourites:

Aphorisms: Philosophy for those with little Zeit. Written by those with little Geist.

Coffee: the diuretic of enlightenment.

Ideology: the mistaken belief that your beliefs are neither mistaken nor beliefs.

Fundamentalism: A literal misreading of the misunderstood.

The End:
Patience, friends.
Change is slow.
The struggle long.
And Rome did not burn in a day.

tyto says

I received this from NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

Note: I was not previously familiar with the twitter account.

A delightful little collection of aphorisms. It was full of things that I would love to clip out and put in a scrapbook if I actually ever did things like create scrapbooks of weird aphorisms.

Maurizio Manco says

#ComeTrovareLaFelicità

Pensa a dove l'hai vista l'ultima volta.

Guarda se è ancora lì.

Se non c'è, chiediti perché se n'è andata.

Se c'è, chiediti perché non sei rimasto. (p. 45)

#SelfHelp

Sii padrone della tua alienazione.

Monetizza il tuo disgusto.

Decostruisci la tua disperazione.

Mangia. Nega. Ama. (p. 107)

dal "Glossario":

Genio: Quando la tristezza parla alla solitudine. E ride. (p. 129)

Ideologia: L'errata convinzione che le tue convinzioni non siano né convinzioni né errate. (p. 130)

Patriottismo: L'amore per il proprio paese da parte di chi non ha mai messo il naso fuori. (p. 133)

Semiotica: La scienza che studia come il significato sia fatto per essere frainteso. (p. 135)

John Morrison says

I won this book through the giveaways. You will either get it and enjoy it or not and hate it. I found it clever and funny!
