



## Confessions of a Philosopher: A Personal Journey Through Western Philosophy from Plato to Popper (Modern Library Paperbacks)

*By Bryan Magee*

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### Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

*Confessions* is a somewhat misleading term in this context: you won't find any lurid tales between these covers. Bryan Magee's memoirs-cum-histories of philosophy aren't even "confessions" in the self-flagellating tradition of St. Augustine and Jean-Jacques Rousseau.

So what is *Confessions of a Philosopher*, then? It's a fascinating excursion through 2,000 years of wondering about the basic nature of existence and reality. As a 20th-century philosopher, Magee has a lot to say about his peers, and he spares no feelings. The "Oxford philosophers," who decided that philosophy was not about the nature of existence but about the nature of *language*, yet refused to give any consideration to fiction, are particular targets of Magee's intellectual scorn, while the late Karl Popper, a personal acquaintance of the author, is celebrated as a man who persevered in philosophy's true duties in the face of widespread academic frippery.

If you've ever wondered why we exist, you have what it takes to be a philosopher ... or at least to understand one. Bryan Magee's *Confessions* are thoroughly engaging proof that you don't need a degree to be a deep thinker.

From Library Journal

Magee has taught philosophy at Oxford, and in each of these volumes he attempts to make philosophy understandable to the lay reader. The DK book devotes just a few pages to each of the major thinkers and is lavishly illustrated. It would be suitable for high school, college, and public libraries. Great Philosophers is a series of conversations with important contemporary philosophers about the major historical figures, originally produced for the BBC. *Confessions* is an autobiographical excursion through Western philosophy. Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc.

From [Booklist](#)

Magee's book may not catapult philosophical discourse onto the talk show circuit or best-seller list, but it may breathe life into it for the general reader and modify the vestigial image of philosophy as separate from politics and everyday life. Told as a memoir, this book recounts the eruption of philosophical questions into the young Englishman's consciousness, beginning sometime before age five, and reveals his rather slow discovery that his interests were actually philosophical. Eventually Magee studied academic philosophy at Oxford and Yale, and in this book we have an account of the philosophers he studied or had the opportunity to meet, of his journey through the world of journalism and political philosophy, which lead to several books and passionate claims for what he has found valuable. Woven throughout is a highly detailed and engagingly readable explanation of the philosophical issues and problems with which he has grappled, a compelling tour of Western philosophical thinking from the Greeks to the present. *Jim O'Laughlin*

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**Nancy Dabney:**

Nowadays reading books become more and more than want or need but also become a life style. This reading routine give you lot of advantages. The huge benefits you got of course the knowledge the rest of the

information inside the book that will improve your knowledge and information. The details you get based on what kind of guide you read, if you want drive more knowledge just go with training books but if you want really feel happy read one along with theme for entertaining such as comic or novel. The actual Confessions of a Philosopher: A Personal Journey Through Western Philosophy from Plato to Popper (Modern Library Paperbacks) is kind of guide which is giving the reader unforeseen experience.

### **Brady Witt:**

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