



# **Once and Future Myths: The Power of Ancient Stories in Modern Times**

*Phil Cousineau*

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## **Once and Future Myths: The Power of Ancient Stories in Modern Times Phil Cousineau**

Phil Cousineau illustrates how myths are the stories of real life whether people are conscious of them as myths or not. He shows readers how, by becoming aware of myths in both their historical and present form, they can read the world better, with a deeper understanding of work, love, creativity, and spirituality. The book retells classic myths such as Eros and Psyche and provides new accounts of more contemporary mythmakers such as Jim Morrison and Vincent van Gogh, illustrating how these legends have affected history, culture, and individuals. The timelessness of myth is conveyed through Cousineau's discussions of the mythology of travel, mentors, cities, baseball, and vampires.

## **Once and Future Myths: The Power of Ancient Stories in Modern Times Details**

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# **From Reader Review Once and Future Myths: The Power of Ancient Stories in Modern Times for online ebook**

## **Liam says**

At times this wonderful book full of wonderful stories and personal exploits of its author approaches a pseudo-mythic quality. The writing though good, often soars like low brow sports writing. But his connections of myth to life to present life reminded me of my own childhood when I would have feelings of otherness and not being alone in the woods, though no one was anywhere near me. I really enjoyed the final two chapters on the myth of City Life and the myth of Sports, especially Baseball in Detroit.

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## **Roone Stahl says**

Magical the way that mythology resonates and is reborn throughout the ages, right up through baseball and Tiger Stadium. Revisited again recently.

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## **Rajiv Chopra says**

In general, this is a good book. The first part is actually quite powerful, and I used some of the lines as a quote in one of my blog posts.

The power of story telling is something we often fail to recognise, and this is something he brings out very clearly. The myths and old stories are generally Western ones that he has quoted, and this is a small quibble from my side. The essential message is clear and loud.

He writes well. However, from the second half of the book - the sections on sports, cities etc - which are indeed quite powerful themes, I think, the book tends to waver. While he does indeed draw the connection between his own experiences and that of ancient/modern myths, the link is weak.

However, he does do us yeoman service, especially in this modern age when mobile phone and electronic technology is threatening to take us away from our roots.

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## **Ana says**

This is one great book. I read it a long time ago but it's words still resonate within me to this day.

It made me have an epiphany about where I am in life. It made me realize that happiness is not a goal, a place, or a person; That happiness is the road and your experiences on the way. And that nowadays society tries to tell us what happiness is, the "American Dream" for example, but that mold doesn't fit everyone and that is not true happiness.

This is what I took from it at least. It is a very inspiring book and I really recommend it.

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### **Stephen Palmer says**

I liked some of this, but found it a little too much based in the author's own personal experience. The best parts were when he was generalising from experience, literature, other people etc. Chapters on cities and mentoring particularly interesting.

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### **Sara says**

A great, thorough, read about the mythological concepts that tie us all together across race, religion and creed. A cool introduction to myth and it's applicability in the modern era.

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### **Leslie says**

"What drags for some is timeless for others." And vice versa. I feel like there has to be more to this book than I found in it, especially since it's gotten such glowing reviews from others, but while there were some sections I found interesting, for the most part I was BORED out of my skull by it. I don't feel like I'm the type of person who can only enjoy books where I can identify with the people in it, but this one just seems to me to be SO male-centered, featuring father-son relationships, including the author's, in excruciating detail, and SPORTS ad nauseam. Even the part on "creation myths" starts with the "myth" about the invention of baseball.

Maybe part of it is that I'm not that into memoir, and this book, especially in the last couple of hours, essentially turned into a memoir - at least as far as I was concerned. I also didn't care for the author's narration, and he's not a bad reader - there was just something about it that grated on me.

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### **Bill Pritchard says**

This incredible book draws on history, movies, pop culture and the authors own life experience to show how myths are timeless stories that continue to shape and affect our lives. By taking us on a unique path to personal growth through a deep examination of our lives, Phil Cousineau shows how we are all living out the myths that have been part of humanity through the ages.

I especially appreciate the Recommended Reading pages at the end of this book. One can set their yearly reading list off of this eclectic list that guides as one strives to find his or her path. I have read a number of his books, and have found all to be fantastic. Strongly recommended.

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### **Jesse says**

When I originally checked this out of the library, I thought it would be mostly about the meaning of classic

and ancient myths and their impact on us today. In some ways it is about that. But it's much more than that too. Modern myth, for Cousineau is much more than just stories of what the gods did thousands of years ago. Modern myth is the way we think; the way we function in every day society.

But it was Cousineau's personal journey that really drew me into the book. His writing is fresh and honest; so when he describes a personal epiphany or event it is endearing and above all interesting.

What I couldn't understand however, was Cousineau's relationship to his father who is referred to several times throughout the book. Apparently the man would force his children to sit up reading classical myths from dinner well into the night, until they fell asleep from exhaustion on many many nights. I'm all for reading in the family but by the descriptions I just couldn't help but feel sorry for the other siblings who were just bored by the whole thing and wanted to do something else.

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### **Kristen Yard says**

This book had a similar effect on my thoughts behind my writing as the work of Campbell. It was thought provoking, funny and moved me to tears on a few occasions. I would recommend this book to anyone who wants to find the myth of their own life and in doing so study the art of story-telling.

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### **Polly says**

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