

jules evans philosophy for life

Jules Evans Philosophy for Life

Understanding Jules Evans and His Approach to Philosophy for Life

Jules Evans philosophy for life is deeply rooted in the practical application of ancient philosophical traditions to modern living. As a renowned philosopher and author, Evans emphasizes that philosophy isn't just an academic discipline but a vital tool to navigate life's challenges, find meaning, and cultivate well-being. His approach encourages individuals to adopt philosophical practices to foster resilience, happiness, and personal growth in everyday life. Through his writings and teachings, Jules Evans offers a roadmap for turning ancient wisdom into contemporary life strategies.

Who Is Jules Evans?

Background and Expertise

Jules Evans is a British philosopher, researcher, and author specializing in the application of ancient philosophy to modern mental health and well-being. He has a background in philosophy and psychology, with a focus on Stoicism, Epicureanism, and other classical schools. Evans has worked with organizations such as the Wellbeing Research Centre at the University of Warwick and the UK's Prime Minister's Office, developing programs that integrate philosophical practices into public health initiatives.

Published Works and Contributions

- *Philosophy for Life and Other Dangerous Situations* - His influential book exploring how ancient philosophy can be used as a practical toolkit for modern problems.
- Research articles on the benefits of philosophical practices like Stoic exercises and Socratic dialogue for mental health.
- Public talks and workshops promoting philosophy as a way to improve resilience and happiness.

The Core Principles of Jules Evans's Philosophy for Life

Practical Wisdom (Phronesis)

Evans advocates for applying practical wisdom, or phronesis, which involves making wise decisions based on context, experience, and moral understanding. Instead of rigid rules, he promotes flexible thinking tailored to individual circumstances, encouraging mindful reflection on daily choices.

Stoicism as a Tool for Resilience

Central to Evans's philosophy is Stoicism, an ancient Greek school emphasizing control over one's reactions, acceptance of what cannot be changed, and focusing on inner virtues. Evans highlights exercises such as negative visualization and journaling to cultivate resilience against life's setbacks.

Epicurean Happiness

He also explores Epicureanism, which advocates for simple pleasures, moderation, and cultivating friendships to achieve a tranquil life. Evans suggests that understanding and managing desires can lead to sustained happiness.

Mindfulness and Present-Moment Awareness

Drawing from various traditions, Evans emphasizes the importance of mindfulness – being fully present and aware of one's thoughts and feelings without judgment – as a foundation for wise living and emotional regulation.

Philosophical Practices for Modern Life

Stoic Exercises and Techniques

1. **Negative Visualization:** Regularly imagining the loss of loved ones or possessions to appreciate what we have and reduce fear of loss.
2. **Journaling:** Reflecting on daily events and one's reactions to develop self-awareness and moral integrity.
3. **Premeditatio Malorum:** Preparing mentally for potential setbacks to build resilience.

Socratic Dialogue and Self-Reflection

- Asking probing questions to challenge assumptions and gain clarity.
- Engaging in self-dialogue to identify values and guide actions.

Community and Friendship as Philosophical Practice

Evans emphasizes that friendship and community are essential to a meaningful life. Philosophical communities or discussion groups foster shared reflection, accountability, and collective wisdom.

Modern Applications of Ancient Wisdom

- Integrating Stoic exercises into daily routines.
- Using mindfulness techniques from Eastern traditions alongside Western philosophy.
- Applying Epicurean principles to reduce materialism and focus on quality of life.

The Benefits of Embracing Jules Evans's Philosophy for Life

Enhanced Resilience and Emotional Regulation

By practicing ancient techniques like Stoic exercises, individuals can better manage stress, anxiety, and setbacks, leading to increased emotional stability.

Greater Self-Awareness and Moral Clarity

Engaging in regular reflection and philosophical inquiry helps clarify personal values and moral priorities, fostering authentic living.

Improved Relationships and Social Well-being

Focusing on friendship, community, and shared philosophical inquiry enhances social bonds and nurtures a supportive environment for personal growth.

Increased Happiness and Life Satisfaction

Adopting a balanced approach to desires, practicing gratitude, and living mindfully contribute to sustained happiness and contentment.

Implementing Jules Evans's Philosophy in Daily Life

Start Small with Daily Practices

- Begin journaling your thoughts and reactions each morning or evening.
- Practice negative visualization once a week to foster gratitude.
- Set aside time for mindfulness meditation or reflection.

Join or Form Philosophical Communities

Participating in discussion groups or online forums can deepen your understanding and provide support for philosophical practices.

Read and Study Classical Texts

Engage with primary sources from Stoic philosophers like Marcus Aurelius and Epictetus, or Epicureans like Epicurus, to gain insight and inspiration.

Apply Philosophy to Specific Challenges

- Use Stoic techniques during stressful work situations.
- Practice Epicurean moderation in consumption and social activities.
- Employ mindfulness to improve emotional regulation during conflicts.

Conclusion: Embracing a Philosophy for a Fulfilling Life

Jules Evans's philosophy for life offers a compelling blend of ancient wisdom and modern practicality. By integrating Stoic resilience, Epicurean happiness, mindfulness, and philosophical reflection into daily routines, individuals can navigate life's complexities with greater equanimity and purpose. His approach underscores that philosophy isn't just an abstract discipline but a living, breathing guide for achieving well-being, moral integrity, and personal fulfillment. Embracing these principles can transform everyday challenges into opportunities for growth, ultimately leading to a more meaningful and satisfying life.

Frequently Asked Questions

What are the key principles of Jules Evans's philosophy for living a meaningful life?

Jules Evans emphasizes the importance of Stoic resilience, mindfulness, and the cultivation of virtues like wisdom, courage, and moderation to lead a fulfilling and balanced life.

How does Jules Evans suggest integrating ancient philosophical practices into modern daily routines?

Evans advocates for practical exercises such as journaling, meditation, and reflection inspired by Stoic and other ancient philosophies to enhance mental resilience and emotional well-being.

What role does Jules Evans believe philosophy plays in mental health and well-being?

He believes philosophy serves as a toolkit for managing stress, overcoming adversity, and developing a resilient mindset, making it a valuable resource for mental health in contemporary society.

In what ways does Jules Evans promote philosophy as a tool for social and personal transformation?

Evans encourages applying philosophical principles to foster empathy, ethical behavior, and social cohesion, helping individuals and communities to navigate challenges more thoughtfully.

What are some practical examples Jules Evans offers for applying his philosophy for life?

Examples include practicing voluntary discomfort to build resilience, engaging in philosophical community discussions, and adopting daily mindfulness exercises based on ancient wisdom for improved well-being.

Additional Resources

Jules Evans Philosophy for Life: Navigating Modern Existence with Wisdom and Resilience

In an age characterized by rapid technological change, social upheavals, and an ever-increasing pace of life, many individuals seek guidance on how to live meaningfully and resiliently. Among the contemporary voices offering such guidance is Jules Evans, a philosopher and writer whose insights into ancient philosophies and psychological resilience provide a compelling framework for modern living. His philosophy for life emphasizes the importance of cultivating inner strength, embracing virtue, and adopting practical wisdom rooted in classical traditions. This article explores Jules Evans's approach to life, examining the core principles that underpin his philosophy and how they can be applied in everyday life.

The Foundations of Jules Evans's Philosophy for Life

Jules Evans's philosophy draws heavily from classical philosophies—particularly Stoicism, Epicureanism, and Aristotelian virtue ethics—integrating these ancient insights with modern psychological research. His work aims to adapt timeless wisdom to contemporary challenges, offering tools to foster resilience, happiness, and moral integrity.

At its core, Evans advocates for a balanced life rooted in self-awareness, intentionality, and moral development. He believes that by studying ancient philosophies and applying their teachings, individuals can develop a set of mental habits that help navigate life's inevitable difficulties with equanimity.

Embracing Ancient Wisdom in a Modern World

The Relevance of Stoicism

One of the central elements of Jules Evans's philosophy is the revival of Stoicism, a school of thought founded in ancient Greece that emphasizes rational control over one's emotions and acceptance of external events beyond our control.

Key principles of Stoicism in Evans's view include:

- Dichotomy of Control: Recognizing what we can and cannot influence, and focusing our energies accordingly.
- Virtue as the Highest Good: Living in accordance with virtues such as wisdom, courage, justice, and self-discipline.
- Practicing Mindfulness and Reflection: Regularly examining one's thoughts and reactions to ensure alignment with rational principles.

Evans suggests that in adopting Stoic practices—like journaling, negative visualization, and reframing challenges—individuals can develop resilience against stress and setbacks. For example, contemplating worst-case scenarios helps diminish fear and prepares one emotionally for adversity.

Epicurean Happiness

While often misunderstood as advocating for hedonism, Epicureanism, as presented by Evans, emphasizes the pursuit of ataraxia—a state of tranquility—and simple pleasures. It encourages appreciating the present moment, cultivating meaningful relationships, and avoiding unnecessary desires.

Evans highlights that Epicurean philosophy teaches:

- Savoring Simple Pleasures: Engaging fully in everyday activities like good food, conversation, and nature.
- Avoiding Excess: Recognizing that overindulgence often leads to dissatisfaction and anxiety.
- Building Social Bonds: Valuing friendships and community as essential components of a fulfilling life.

By integrating Epicurean principles, Evans advocates for a life where contentment arises from moderation, mindfulness, and genuine connections.

Virtue Ethics and Personal Development

Drawing from Aristotle's virtue ethics, Evans emphasizes that cultivating virtues—such as courage, temperance, justice, and wisdom—is central to a good life.

He encourages practices like:

- Habit Formation: Developing virtues through repeated actions.
- Moral Reflection: Regularly evaluating one's choices and growth.
- Purposeful Living: Aligning daily actions with higher values and goals.

Evans believes that moral development not only benefits society but also enhances personal well-being, creating a sense of authenticity and purpose.

Practical Applications of Evans's Philosophy

Cultivating Resilience

Resilience is a cornerstone of Evans's philosophy. He advocates for practical exercises that build mental toughness:

- Negative Visualization: Imagining losing what you value to appreciate it more and reduce fear of loss.
- Premeditatio Malorum: Anticipating potential difficulties to prepare oneself emotionally.
- Mindfulness and Meditation: Developing present-moment awareness to manage stress.

These practices, rooted in Stoic tradition, help individuals develop a calm, rational mindset in the face of uncertainty.

Building Virtue in Daily Life

Evans encourages integrating virtue ethics into everyday routines:

- Start Small: Practice acts of honesty, kindness, or patience daily.
- Reflect Regularly: Use journaling to assess moral progress and setbacks.
- Seek Feedback: Cultivate humility and openness to growth.

By consciously embodying virtues, individuals can foster moral integrity and inner peace.

Finding Meaning and Purpose

Evans stresses that a meaningful life is one aligned with personal values and virtues. He recommends:

- Clarifying Values: Reflect on what matters most—family, community, creativity, service.
- Engaging in Purposeful Activities: Pursue work or hobbies that align with your core values.
- Contributing to Others: Recognize that service and altruism enhance personal fulfillment.

Living with purpose creates resilience against existential doubts and enhances overall well-being.

The Role of Community and Social Bonds

While individual resilience is vital, Evans underscores that humans are inherently social beings. Building strong social bonds is essential for a flourishing life.

Strategies he proposes include:

- Fostering Empathy: Practice active listening and compassion.
- Participating in Community: Engage in groups or activities that promote shared values.
- Resolving Conflicts Virtuously: Approach disagreements with justice and temperance.

Healthy relationships serve as a buffer against life's hardships and contribute to a sense of belonging.

Challenges and Criticisms

While Jules Evans's philosophy offers valuable insights, it is not without challenges. Critics may argue that:

- Ancient philosophies may oversimplify modern complexities: The social and economic pressures of today differ significantly from those of ancient Greece.
- Implementation can be difficult: Practicing virtues and resilience strategies requires sustained effort and self-awareness.
- Cultural context matters: Some principles may not resonate across diverse cultural backgrounds.

Evans acknowledges these limitations but maintains that the core principles remain adaptable and beneficial when tailored to individual circumstances.

Final Thoughts: Living with Wisdom and Resilience

Jules Evans philosophy for life is a compelling blend of ancient wisdom and modern psychology. It champions the pursuit of virtue, resilience, and mindfulness as pathways to a meaningful and balanced existence. In a world rife with distractions and uncertainties, Evans's teachings serve as a reminder that cultivating inner strength and moral clarity can help us navigate life's challenges with grace and purpose.

By integrating practices from Stoicism, Epicureanism, and virtue ethics into daily routines, individuals can foster resilience, find genuine happiness, and live authentically aligned with their deepest values. While the journey requires effort and reflection, the rewards—a life marked by tranquility, purpose, and moral integrity—are well worth the pursuit. In embracing Evans's philosophy, we can aspire not just to survive in the modern world but to thrive with wisdom, compassion, and resilience.

[Jules Evans Philosophy For Life](#)

jules evans philosophy for life: *Philosophy for Life and Other Dangerous Situations* Jules Evans, 2013-10-15 When philosophy rescued him from an emotional crisis, Jules Evans became fascinated by how ideas invented over two thousand years ago can help us today. He interviewed soldiers, psychologists, gangsters, astronauts, and anarchists and discovered the ways that people are using philosophy now to build better lives. Ancient philosophy has inspired modern communities

— Socratic cafés, Stoic armies, Epicurean communes — and even whole nations in the quest for the good life. This book is an invitation to a dream school with a rowdy faculty that includes twelve of the greatest philosophers from the ancient world, sharing their lessons on happiness, resilience, and much more. Lively and inspiring, this is philosophy for the street, for the workplace, for the battlefield, for love, for life.

jules evans philosophy for life: *Philosophy for Life and Other Dangerous Situations* Jules Evans, 2013-10-03 When philosophy rescued him from an emotional crisis, Jules Evans became fascinated by how ideas invented over two thousand years ago can help us today. He interviewed soldiers, psychologists, gangsters, astronauts, and anarchists and discovered the ways that people are using philosophy now to build better lives. Ancient philosophy has inspired modern communities — Socratic cafés, Stoic armies, Epicurean communes — and even whole nations in the quest for the good life. This book is an invitation to a dream school with a rowdy faculty that includes twelve of the greatest philosophers from the ancient world, sharing their lessons on happiness, resilience, and much more. Lively and inspiring, this is philosophy for the street, for the workplace, for the battlefield, for love, for life.

jules evans philosophy for life: *Philosophy for Life* Jules Evans, 2012 In his engaging new book, Jules Evans explains how philosophy quite literally saved his life and shows how we can make use of it everyday in our own.

jules evans philosophy for life: *The Mindful Athlete* George Mumford, 2015-04-17 The all-star advisor to athletes like Kobe Bryant and Michael Jordan shares his revolutionary mindfulness-based program for elevating athletic performance—featuring a foreword by legendary NBA coach Phil Jackson. “George helped me understand the art of mindfulness. To be neither distracted or focused, rigid or flexible, passive or aggressive. I learned just to be.” —Kobe Bryant Michael Jordan credits George Mumford with transforming his on-court leadership of the Bulls, helping Jordan lead the team to six NBA championships. Mumford also helped Kobe Bryant, Andrew Bynum, and Lamar Odom and countless other NBA players turn around their games. A widely respected public speaker and coach, Mumford is sharing his own story and the strategies that have made these athletes into stars in *The Mindful Athlete: The Secret to Pure Performance*. His proven, gentle but groundbreaking mindfulness techniques can transform the performance of anyone with a goal, be they an Olympian, weekend warrior, executive, hacker, or artist. When Michael Jordan left the Chicago Bulls to play baseball in 1993, the team was in crisis. Coach Phil Jackson, a long-time mindfulness practitioner, contacted Dr. Kabat-Zinn to find someone who could teach mindfulness techniques to the struggling team—someone who would have credibility and could speak the language of his players. Kabat-Zinn led Jackson to Mumford and their partnership began. Mumford has worked with Jackson and each of the eleven teams he coached to become NBA champions. His roster of champion clients has since blossomed way beyond basketball to include corporate executives, Olympians, and athletes in many different sports. With a charismatic teaching style that combines techniques of engaged mindfulness with lessons from popular culture icons such as Yoda, Indiana Jones, and Bruce Lee, Mumford tells illuminating stories about his larger-than-life clients. His writing is down-to-earth and easy to understand and apply. *The Mindful Athlete* is an engrossing story and an invaluable resource for anyone looking to elevate their game, no matter what the pursuit, and includes a foreword by Phil Jackson.

jules evans philosophy for life: *Rethinking Therapeutic Reading* Kelda Green, 2020-06-09 ‘*Rethinking Therapeutic Reading*’ uses a combination of literary criticism and experimental psychology to examine the ways in which literature can create therapeutic spaces for personal thinking. It reconsiders the role that serious literary reading might play in the real world, reclaiming literature as a vital tool for dealing with human troubles.

jules evans philosophy for life: *Higher Expectations* Derek Bok, 2022-05-17 How our colleges and universities can respond to the changing hopes and needs of society In recent decades, cognitive psychologists have cast new light on human development and given colleges new possibilities for helping students acquire skills and qualities that will enhance their lives and

increase their contributions to society. In this landmark book, Derek Bok explores how colleges can reap the benefits of these discoveries and create a more robust undergraduate curriculum for the twenty-first century. Prior to this century, most psychologists thought that creativity, empathy, resilience, conscientiousness, and most personality traits were largely fixed by early childhood. What researchers have now discovered is that virtually all of these qualities continue to change through early adulthood and often well beyond. Such findings suggest that educators may be able to do much more than was previously thought possible to teach students to develop these important characteristics and thereby enable them to flourish in later life. How prepared are educators to cultivate these qualities of mind and behavior? What do they need to learn to capitalize on the possibilities? Will college faculties embrace these opportunities and make the necessary changes in their curricula and teaching methods? What can be done to hasten the process of innovation and application? In providing answers to these questions, Bok identifies the hurdles to institutional change, proposes sensible reforms, and demonstrates how our colleges can help students lead more successful, productive, and meaningful lives.

jules evans philosophy for life: The Daily Stoic Journal Ryan Holiday, Stephen Hanselman, 2017-11-14 A beautiful daily journal to lead your journey in the art of living--and an instant WSJ bestseller! For more than two thousand years, Stoic philosophy has been the secret operating system of wise leaders, artists, athletes, brilliant thinkers, and ordinary citizens. With the acclaimed, bestselling books *The Obstacle Is the Way*, *Ego Is the Enemy* and *The Daily Stoic*, Ryan Holiday and Stephen Hanselman have helped to bring the Stoicism of Marcus Aurelius, Seneca, and Epictetus to hundreds of thousands of new readers all over the world. Now Holiday and Hanselman are back with *The Daily Stoic Journal*, a beautifully designed hardcover journal that features space for morning and evening notes, along with advice for integrating this ancient philosophy into our 21st century lives. Each week readers will discover a specific powerful Stoic practice, explained and presented with related quotations to inspire deeper reflection and application, and each day they will answer a powerful question to help gauge their progress. Created with a durable, Smyth-sewn binding and featuring a helpful introduction explaining the various Stoic tools of self-management, as well as resources for further reading, this is a lasting companion volume for people who already love *The Daily Stoic* and its popular daily emails and social media accounts. It can also be used as a stand-alone journal, even if you haven't read the previous books. For anyone seeking inner peace, clarity, and effectiveness in our crazy world, this book will help them immensely for the next year—and for the rest of their lives.

jules evans philosophy for life: The Buddha in Me, The Buddha in You David Hare, 2016-02-04 Do you want to be happier? Find inner calm? Enjoy a rich and rewarding life? Here's how... *The Buddha in Me, the Buddha in You* combines the tried-and-tested wisdom of Nichiren Buddhism with the best of popular psychology and personal development, making this a brilliant guide to how life works, and how to get the most from it. Nichiren Buddhism differs from other Buddhist schools in its focus on the here-and-now, and places great importance on individual growth as the starting point for a better world. This, combined with powerful techniques such as NLP, mindfulness, journalling and coaching, makes *The Buddha in Me, the Buddha in You* the quintessential handbook for happiness. 'Buddha' simply means someone who is awakened - yet while Nichiren Buddhists will find fascinating insights into their practice, there is no need to follow a spiritual path to benefit from this book. Through his experience as an internationally acclaimed life coach and practising Buddhist, author David Hare shows us how to wake up to our own potential and that of those around us - to discover everyday enlightenment.

jules evans philosophy for life: Science and Spiritual Practices Rupert Sheldrake, 2018-08-28 A biologist draws on science and psychology to validate the benefits of 7 common religious practices—from meditation and gratitude to rituals and pilgrimage. "I have personally adopted many of [these] practices . . . and experienced more love, joy, empathy, gratitude, and equanimity as a result." —Deepak Chopra The effects of spiritual practices are now being investigated scientifically as never before, and many studies have shown that religious and spiritual practices generally make

people happier and healthier. In this pioneering book, Rupert Sheldrake shows how science helps validate 7 practices on which many religions are built, and which are part of our common human heritage: • Meditation • Gratitude • Connecting with nature • Relating to plants • Rituals • Singing and chanting • Pilgrimage and holy places Sheldrake summarizes the latest scientific research on what happens when we take part in these practices, and suggests ways that readers can explore these fields for themselves. For those who are religious, *Science and Spiritual Practices* will illuminate the evolutionary origins of their own traditions and give a new appreciation of their power. For the nonreligious, this book will show how the core practices of spirituality are accessible to all.

jules evans philosophy for life: *Religious Language, Meaning, and Use* Robert K. Bolger, Robert C. Coburn, 2019-08-22 Can the meaning of religious language be separated from its use? In *Religious Language, Meaning, and Use*, Robert Bolger and Robert Coburn address what has become a contentious though often overlooked account of the relationship between religious belief and religious practice. Through philosophical argumentation and by means of a variety of sermon-like essays on religious topics, this book seeks to return religion to the place in which the meaning and practical impact of its beliefs become inseparable from the life of the believer. Part I begins by considering, through the loose lens of Wittgenstein's philosophical method, how religious language has been misunderstood leading straightway to a variety of challenges and conceptual confusions. Part II presents previously unpublished essays written by Robert C. Coburn who has, for over 50 years, been at the forefront of the study of metaphysics and philosophy of religion. Making a compelling case for a religious practice that avoids trivializing religious belief, this book promises to be a corrective to those who see faith as nothing more than ethics in disguise and to those metaphysicians who see faith as a set of beliefs.

jules evans philosophy for life: *Political Institutions and Practical Wisdom* Maxwell A. Cameron, 2018 Cameron shows how institutions rely on rules and incentives, but they need practitioners with the virtues and character to make good decisions. Wise practitioners are not only an antidote to excessive partisanship, neoliberal competitiveness, and institutional corruption; they are an essential ingredient of any democracy based on citizenship and the common good.

jules evans philosophy for life: *The BBC Hunters* James Ward, 2019-11-19 2019. Russia's Web Brigades have created a divided West, but both the European and the American intelligence services are getting wise to their tactics. When Stanislav Kuznetsov, the FSB's Director of Overseas Strategic Affairs, entrusts a group of young idealists with the task of devising the next phase in the disruption of Russia's enemies, little does he suspect that six weeks later, they'll come up with a plan to suborn the British Broadcasting Corporation. His first reaction is mingled incredulity and exasperation. Have they taken leave of their senses? But then he studies the details. And actually, it's not as far-fetched as it looks. In fact it's entirely workable. It might even be worth passing off as his own idea... Which, technically speaking, is intellectual property theft, and certain to offend the hard-working members of his young focus group. One night, by way of showing how angry they are, they all disappear from Moscow simultaneously. Which is bad enough. But what makes it far worse is that there's evidence to suggest they're intent on contacting a British MI7 agent called John Mordred. Talk about getting their revenge. This could be the crisis to end all crises. Heads will definitely roll.

jules evans philosophy for life: *Happy* Derren Brown, 2016-09-22 The Sunday Times Bestseller 'Really brilliant and just crammed with wisdom and insight. It will genuinely make a difference to me and the way I think about myself.' Stephen Fry ___ Everyone says they want to be happy. But that's much more easily said than done. What does being happy actually mean? And how do you even know when you feel it? In *Happy* Derren Brown explores changing concepts of happiness - from the surprisingly modern wisdom of the Stoics and Epicureans in classical times right up until today, when the self-help industry has attempted to claim happiness as its own. He shows how many of self-help's suggested routes to happiness and success - such as positive thinking, self-belief and setting goals - can be disastrous to follow and, indeed, actually cause anxiety. *Happy*

aims to reclaim happiness and to enable us to appreciate the good things in life, in all their transient glory. By taking control of the stories we tell ourselves, by remembering that 'everything's fine' even when it might not feel that way, we can allow ourselves to flourish and to live more happily. ___ What readers are saying: ***** 'Immensely positive and life-affirming' ***** 'This is the blue print to a good life' ***** 'Thought provoking and potentially life-changing.'

jules evans philosophy for life: Storytelling and Collective Psychology Darren Kelsey, 2022-04-21 This book examines the work of psychological illusionist Derren Brown to understand the significance of storytelling and ancient philosophy in our society. Reflecting on the social disconnection and political polarisation of recent times, Darren Kelsey considers how we can rebuild a sense of collective cohesion and common good, weaving together contemporary psychology with ancient Stoicism to cut through the noise of modern life. Kelsey shows that Brown is more than a stage performer: he's an enlightened magician who offers us guidance for navigating the challenges life throws at us, using his skills and wisdom to help us better understand ourselves and enable human flourishing. In this rigorous examination of Brown's work, Kelsey makes a compelling case for paying closer attention to our personal, cultural and political stories and beliefs to help create a better future - for ourselves, our communities, and the planet.

jules evans philosophy for life: The Way We Die Now Seamus O'Mahony, 2017-07-25 We have lost the ability to deal with death. Most of our friends and beloved relations will die in a busy hospital in the care of strangers, doctors, and nurses they have known at best for a couple of weeks. They may not even know they are dying, victims of the kindly lie that there is still hope. They are unlikely to see even their family doctor in their final hours, robbed of their dignity and fed through a tube after a long series of excessive and hopeless medical interventions. This is the starting point of Seamus O'Mahony's *The Way We Die Now*, a thoughtful, moving and unforgettable book on the western way of death. Dying has never been more public, with celebrities writing detailed memoirs of their illness, but in private we have done our best to banish all thought of dying and made a good death increasingly difficult to achieve.

jules evans philosophy for life: Between Form and Faith Martyn Sampson, 2021-08-03 What is a "Catholic" novel? This book analyzes the fiction of Graham Greene in a radically new manner, considering in depth its form and content, which rest on the oppositions between secularism and religion. Sampson challenges these distinctions, arguing that Greene has a dramatic contribution to add to their methodological premises. Chapters on Greene's four "Catholic" novels and two of his "post-Catholic" novels are complemented by fresh insight into the critical importance of his nonfiction. The study paints an image of an inviting yet beguilingly complex literary figure.

jules evans philosophy for life: Ars Vitae Elisabeth Lasch-Quinn, 2020-10-15 Despite the flood of self-help guides and our current therapeutic culture, feelings of alienation and spiritual longing continue to grip modern society. In this book, Elisabeth Lasch-Quinn offers a fresh solution: a return to classic philosophy and the cultivation of an inner life. The ancient Roman philosopher Cicero wrote that philosophy is *ars vitae*, the art of living. Today, signs of stress and duress point to a full-fledged crisis for individuals and communities while current modes of making sense of our lives prove inadequate. Yet, in this time of alienation and spiritual longing, we can glimpse signs of a renewed interest in ancient approaches to the art of living. In this ambitious and timely book, Elisabeth Lasch-Quinn engages both general readers and scholars on the topic of well-being. She examines the reappearance of ancient philosophical thought in contemporary American culture, probing whether new stirrings of Gnosticism, Stoicism, Epicureanism, Cynicism, and Platonism present a true alternative to our current therapeutic culture of self-help and consumerism, which elevates the self's needs and desires yet fails to deliver on its promises of happiness and healing. Do the ancient philosophies represent a counter-tradition to today's culture, auguring a new cultural vibrancy, or do they merely solidify a modern way of life that has little use for inwardness—the cultivation of an inner life—stemming from those older traditions? Tracing the contours of this cultural resurgence and exploring a range of sources, from scholarship to self-help manuals, films, and other artifacts of popular culture, this book sees the different schools as organically interrelated

and asks whether, taken together, they can point us in important new directions. *Ars Vitae* sounds a clarion call to take back philosophy as part of our everyday lives. It proposes a way to do so, sifting through the ruins of long-forgotten and recent history alike for any shards helpful in piecing together the coherence of a moral framework that allows us ways to move forward toward the life we want and need.

jules evans philosophy for life: The Routledge Handbook of the Stoic Tradition John Sellars, 2016-02-12 The ancient philosophy of stoicism has been a crucial and formative influence on the development of Western thought since its inception through to the present day. It is not only an important area of study in philosophy and classics, but also in theology and literature. The Routledge Handbook of the Stoic Tradition is the first volume of its kind, and an outstanding guide and reference source to the nature and continuing significance of stoicism. Comprising twenty-six chapters by a team of international contributors and organised chronologically, the Handbook is divided into four parts: Antiquity and the Middle Ages, including stoicism in Rome; stoicism in early Christianity; the Platonic response to stoicism; and stoic influences in the late Middle Ages Renaissance and Reformation, addressing the impact of stoicism on the Italian Renaissance, Reformation thought, and early modern English literature including Shakespeare Early Modern Europe, including stoicism and early modern French thought; the stoic influence on Spinoza and Leibniz; stoicism and the French and Scottish Enlightenment; and Kant and stoic ethics The Modern World, including stoicism in nineteenth century German philosophy; stoicism in Victorian culture; stoicism in America; stoic themes in contemporary Anglo-American ethics; and the stoic influence on modern psychotherapy. An invaluable resource for anyone interested in the philosophical history and impact of stoic thought, The Routledge Handbook of the Stoic Tradition is essential reading for all students and researchers working on the subject.

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back of it. - Graham Loving the Escape manifesto, I'm planning my escape from finance to conservation for August 2014. - Scott Your book is by my bed - making notes from the money chapter... hopefully I'll have news soon. - Victoria I'm reading your book right now. I'm halfway through but I couldn't resist contacting you before I finish it. It is the perfect reference for finding a new career path and escaping the status quo and pressure from society - very good book! - Daniel Your book has made me feel so good about my situation and I now believe I'm doing all the right things to give my plans a good old go. Life is so short and you have nothing to lose. Nothing!!! - Ed Even the shittiest day brightens up when I read your blog, your book or just the pics you post on Facebook. - Dagmar Well chaps, I did it! Quit my job in senior leadership in a blue chip corporate. Now what???? Halfway thru your book and I had the eureka moment - I'll write a book too so, after blasting out a proposal I now have a contract with a publishing house. My new life as a writer started 3 months ago, you guys gave me the nudge I needed. Thanks! - Andrew I just wanted to say briefly THANK YOU! You wrote a great book! I found myself on many pages! THANKS for writing down your ideas and thoughts and for founding ESC! Just registered. All the best and good luck to you! - Franziska

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