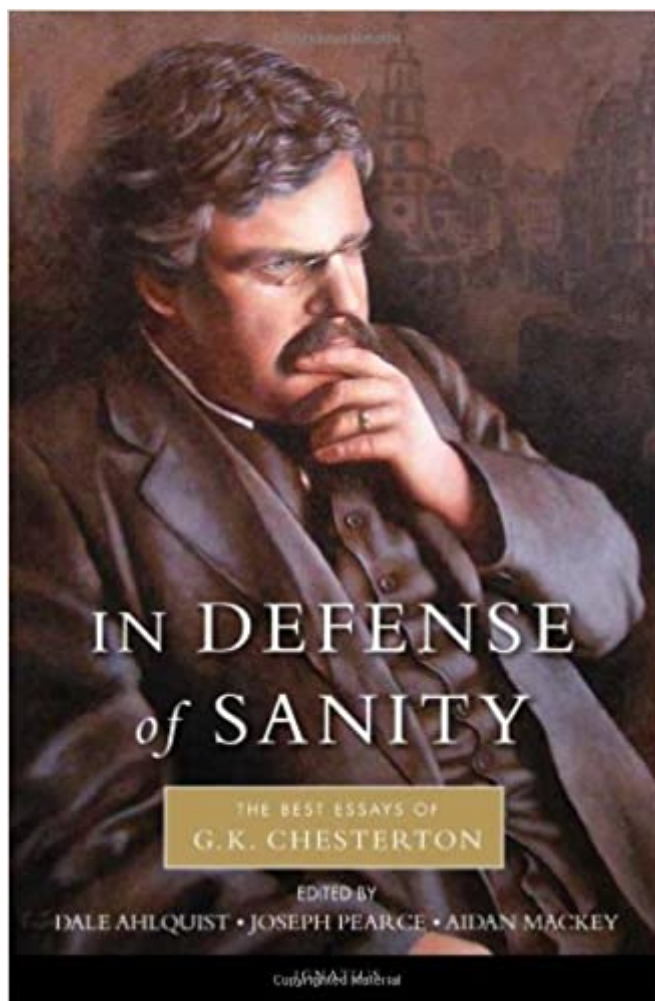


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In Defense Of Sanity: The Best Essays Of G.K. Chesterton



Synopsis

G.K. Chesterton was a master essayist. But reading his essays is not just an exercise in studying a literary form at its finest, it is an encounter with timeless truths that jump off the page as fresh and powerful as the day they were written. The only problem with Chesterton's essays is that there are too many of them. Over five thousand! For most GKC readers it is not even possible to know where to start or how to begin to approach them. So three of the world's leading authorities on Chesterton - Dale Ahlquist, Joseph Pearce, Aidan Mackey - have joined together to select the "best" Chesterton essays, a collection that will be appreciated by both the newcomer and the seasoned student of this great 20th century man of letters. The variety of topics are astounding: barbarians, architects, mystics, ghosts, fireworks, rain, juries, gargoyles and much more. Plus a look at Shakespeare, Dickens, Jane Austen, George MacDonald, T.S. Eliot, and the Bible. All in that inimitable, formidable but always quotable style of GKC. Even more astounding than the variety is the continuity of Chesterton's thought that ties everything together. A veritable feast for the mind and heart. While some of the essays in this volume may be familiar, many of them are collected here for the first time, making their first appearance in over a century.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Terrific, thought-provoking essays by a man who I wish I could hold a candle to when it comes to intellect. This IS a "best-of" compilation so if you already have many of his books you will likely find essays you have already read. But if you want a good introduction to Chesterton, this is a good one to start with. I have not yet read the others I have purchased but will soon do so and am very much

looking forward to what he has to say. He does write from a Catholic standpoint so if you are an atheist or agnostic, it is exceedingly likely you will disagree with what he has to say about various issues, so you have been warned. I do believe at the very least that he will get you to think, even if you ultimately disagree with him. I wish I would have discovered Chesterton earlier but as they say, better late than never. Give this one a read. I don't think you will regret it.

A very good compendium of Chesterton's work for someone reading the famous British author for the first time. I was my godchildren's gift this past Christmas.

Borges said that reading Chesterton was one of his unfailing pleasures. The reader will test this through this selection of 67 essays. Chesterton is a master in the art of provoking the reader to confront his everyday opinions. His thought is twisted towards his Catholic faith. Nevertheless he offers a new window to many usual notions. As an example I particularly enjoyed his arguments in the essay "On certain modern writers and the institution of the family".

The title is entirely accurate. The writing is lucid, witty in the sense of telling the truth well. The insights are those of a sane man, rather than a fashionable thinker.

I bought this for book club with some trepidation and then it turned out to be such a delight. G. K. is one of those people who can wonder at just about anything, and it makes one feel so good about this amazing world we live in. It's also quite a funny book. If you want a light-hearted yet intelligent, feel-good yet well-written book, this is for you! You will feel better with life in general, and look at the world with fresh humor and joy.

I purchased this collection of essays for my husband, a great fan of Chesterton, and I ended up enjoying it myself. This book contains an excellent cross-section of Chesterton's essays, famous and lesser known, from a variety of publications. A must have for any Chesterton lover's library. Also, a good introduction to Chesterton's writings for beginners.

This is a great collection of Chesterton's commentary. Most remarkable for the number of pieces that, though written in the 1920's and early 30's, could have come out last week. A few are even earlier---dating to the end of the 19th century. Some pieces on feminism, marriage and other aspects of human relations read as if they were brand new. And virtually all are, of course, packed

with Chesterton's familiar turns of phrase and paradox. It's delightful reading.

Chesterton is one of my favorite writers. He is witty; spiritually profound; a great writer. I will recommend this book to anyone .

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