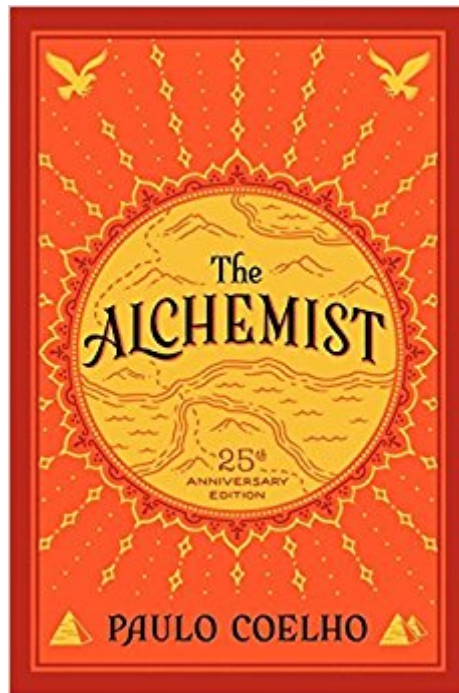


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# The Alchemist



## Synopsis

Note: Item has rough Cut edges(Edges are cut improperly intentionally by the manufacturer) A special 25th anniversary edition of the extraordinary international bestseller, including a new Foreword by Paulo Coelho. Combining magic, mysticism, wisdom and wonder into an inspiring tale of self-discovery, *The Alchemist* has become a modern classic, selling millions of copies around the world and transforming the lives of countless readers across generations. Paulo Coelho's masterpiece tells the mystical story of Santiago, an Andalusian shepherd boy who yearns to travel in search of a worldly treasure. His quest will lead him to riches far different—and far more satisfying—than he ever imagined. Santiago's journey teaches us about the essential wisdom of listening to our hearts, of recognizing opportunity and learning to read the omens strewn along life's path, and, most importantly, to follow our dreams.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Like the one-time bestseller *Jonathan Livingston Seagull*, *The Alchemist* presents a simple fable, based on simple truths and places it in a highly unique situation. And though we may sniff a bestselling formula, it is certainly not a new one: even the ancient tribal storytellers knew that this is the most successful method of entertaining an audience while slipping in a lesson or two. Brazilian storyteller Paulo Coelho introduces Santiago, an Andalusian shepherd boy who one night dreams of a distant treasure in the Egyptian pyramids. And so he's off: leaving Spain to literally follow his dream. Along the way he meets many spiritual messengers, who come in unassuming forms such as a camel driver and a well-read Englishman. In one of the Englishman's books, Santiago first learns about the alchemists--men who believed that if a metal were heated for many years, it would

free itself of all its individual properties, and what was left would be the "Soul of the World." Of course he does eventually meet an alchemist, and the ensuing student-teacher relationship clarifies much of the boy's misguided agenda, while also emboldening him to stay true to his dreams. "My heart is afraid that it will have to suffer," the boy confides to the alchemist one night as they look up at a moonless night. "Tell your heart that the fear of suffering is worse than the suffering itself," the alchemist replies. "And that no heart has ever suffered when it goes in search of its dreams, because every second of the search is a second's encounter with God and with eternity." --Gail Hudson --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This inspirational fable by Brazilian author and translator Coelho has been a runaway bestseller throughout Latin America and seems poised to achieve the same prominence here. The charming tale of Santiago, a shepherd boy, who dreams of seeing the world, is compelling in its own right, but gains resonance through the many lessons Santiago learns during his adventures. He journeys from Spain to Morocco in search of worldly success, and eventually to Egypt, where a fateful encounter with an alchemist brings him at last to self-understanding and spiritual enlightenment. The story has the comic charm, dramatic tension and psychological intensity of a fairy tale, but it's full of specific wisdom as well, about becoming self-empowered, overcoming depression, and believing in dreams. The cumulative effect is like hearing a wonderful bedtime story from an inspirational psychiatrist. Comparisons to *The Little Prince* are appropriate; this is a sweetly exotic tale for young and old alike. 50,000 first printing; \$50,000 ad/promo. Copyright 1993 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

*The Alchemist* is a gripping narrative about a young Andalusian shepherd named Santiago and his journey to find the greatest treasure in the world. This charming story follows Santiago on his journey to Egypt, after having a recurring dream of finding treasure there. Santiago travels across great distances and encounters crazy adventures in his quest for gold. Little does he know that the ultimate treasure is actually found deep within. This dream was so prophetic that Santiago genuinely believed this was his ultimate goal in life. After deciding to travel to a Romani fortune-teller in a nearby town to discover its meaning, a gypsy woman tells him that there is a treasure in the Pyramids in Egypt. Towards the beginning of his journey, Santiago meets an old king, named Melchizedek, who advises him to sell his sheep in order to travel to Egypt. He also introduces the idea of a Personal Legend, stating that your Personal Legend, "is what you have always wanted to accomplish. Everyone, when they are young, knows what their Personal Legend

is. *The Alchemist Physical Cover* Along the journey, Santiago meets an Englishman who is in search of an Alchemist and together they continue their search for treasure. As they travel through the Sahara desert, Santiago meets and falls in love with a beautiful Arabian woman named Fatima. After a brief period of time, Santiago asks Fatima to marry him, but she tells him that she will only marry him after he finds his treasures. Perplexed by this, Santiago later learns that true love will not stop one's Personal Legend, and if it does, it is not true love. Eventually Santiago meets a lone alchemist who teaches him about Personal Legends. He shares his wisdom that people want to find only the treasure of their Personal Legends but not the Personal Legend itself. The alchemist states, "Those who don't understand their Personal Legends will fail to comprehend their teachings. If you are looking for a book that will inspire courage, this is the one. No matter what your dream, goals or visions are, the universe will conspire to help you achieve the things you want, regardless of how insurmountable the task seems. You must live the life you truly desire to its fullest extent if you want to look back on a life having worth lived. The essential message is that treasure is more worthy than gold. Read more here: [...]

I purchased and began reading this book 2 years ago and, for whatever reason, I couldn't get into it. I found it incredibly dull and tedious and finally gave up halfway through. A few weeks ago I took my mother to a dental appointment and opened my Kindle to see what I had available while I waited. I decided to give this book another try and started from the beginning, as I couldn't remember anything from what I read previously. I'm not sure what was different this time around, but I was completely engrossed and my 2 hour wait flew by! I continued to read whenever I found a chance and finished it within a few days. I now find myself constantly thinking of the story and relating it to my own life, as well as my friends and family. It's a short and very simple story, but definitely worth reading!

A classic read for the past 25 years, this account of a Santiago, a shepherd boy, who sets out on a journey to find answers to his questions about life, has inspired many readers. His quest is aided by a Gypsy woman, a King, and an Alchemist who provided both wisdom and assistance in his search for treasure and meaning. This fable/parable/myth follows a traditional trajectory that emphasizes the importance of learning to see the world as it really is, living in the moment, and pursuing one's dreams, despite the obstacles one encounters.

I love this lie book. It is a short, easy read brimming with life lessons. The main character of this book can easily be replaced by any one of us and his life circumstances switched with ours and the lesson is still the same. We all have treasure waiting for us but along the way there are snags and hold-ups but are all perfectly necessary for our journey. I shared this book with my college aged nephew. I intend to give him a new copy every five years so he can see how much more he will understand about life as he grows older.

I am somewhat at odds with the overall message of this book while I generally enjoyed reading it. The story is of an Andalusian shepherd boy who goes on a quest of self discovery and meets many interesting characters along the way. For those of you who don't know, an Alchemist is someone who can turn ordinary metals into gold, which if you're not a moron you know isn't possible. Through reading this you realize the "science" of alchemy has much more to it than metallurgy. The story presents the journey only from the perspective of the boy. The character is not very well developed throughout the book and remains rather naive. On his journey he comes across many unfortunate situations that must work his way out of. Unfortunately, from a philosophical perspective, the story is very selfish. It might be because of my typical Catholic beliefs, but I don't like the moral paradigm presented here. The ultimate solution to the boy's problems are all selfish and self satisfying in nature. His quest is only determined on himself and how the universe can help him. Everything he must find can be found "within". It is definitely interesting but not my cup of tea. No man is an island. Grade: B-

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