

I'm not a bot



[illegible]

generously?As this book is to be taken seriously, I beg to accept my apology if my questions sound like sarcasm. That is not my intention. I am really just asking "all universe to conspire to help me achieve my goal" (another piece of wisdom the book offers) - of understanding how anyone can take this seriously! I just wonder how all universe deals with opposing wishes, which must occasionally occur, even in a small place like our earth. If I for example wish to have my neighbour's garden chair, and my neighbour wishes to keep it, who does "all universe" side with, and how does it conspire to help me get it, and at the same time to help my neighbour to keep it?Things that happen once can never happen again. I also learn. Before I can even ask why, I get another piece of information: Things that happen twice will always happen again. How does that go together? If things have happened once (which is a prerequisite for happening twice in my world) they won't happen again?!! Whatever is meant, things can NEVER happen twice, that is sure. I can't travel to Italy twice. If I do it anyway (which is not possible) I will definitively do it again. That is nice!When I do travel to Italy (once, or three times), my life and my path will always provide me with enough omens. That is interesting, and I do not know why I all of a sudden associate this with the sheepish followers in Life Of Brian, who found omens in sandals.Call me literal-minded, but I do have some issues with the idea of omen provision. Can I order them online nowadays? What do they cost? To close my reflection on learning more from sheep than books, I have to say: In some cases, that is very true! What a bitter medicine!As with all medicines, there are some side effects, and it is very important to read the warning before you take this drug:Please do not read this book if you are in danger of thinking too rationally. When you read this Grade 6 essay, be careful to check if you show behaviours that you would define as out of character, as they might be symptoms of acute driv el reading allergy. Symptoms include: anger, frustration, ridicule, frowning, nausea, meaningless giggling, dreams about book burning, urge to throw the book in the bin or out the window. Symptoms may vary, but in all cases, it is recommended to suspend reading until the brain is reset in adequate sheep mode again. If symptoms do not diminish after enjoying a couple of good, real books, please see your librarian for memory removal surgery or therapy.don-t-read-it monster-mash-of-a-mess postliterate-fiction October 23, 2023 " () "" () () () () (: 0 : . () () " !!!June 9, 2016 (:) " " : : : : : : : : : : : : : : : May 20, 2025The moral of this story is absolutely intrinsic!!!!!!I highly recommend reading this short novel and opening your eyes to more than just the world in front of you. This is the kind of read that leaves you pondering about life and the choices we make, well after youve finished reading. Its the kind of book you read more than once. Written exceptionally well, its an effortless and comfortable read that warns you like a cozy blanket. It left me thinking silently for quite awhile after I closed the book. I honestly just lost myself in thought and how we can so easily lose sight of whats important in life. How we can be quick to assume instead of coming from curious.This isnt just a novel, its a lesson. If you like books that leave you enlightened, this is a good one to read.January 8, 2025(B+) 78% | GoodNotes: On chasing dreams, don't settle themes, enjoying silver linings, but too clich and child's play, relies on stars aligning.*Check out progress updates for detailed commentary: Progress updates:06/08/2024 - Preamble(1) It's been a very long time since I first read this. Really, this is one of the earliest novels I read when I began reading recreationally.- I remember at the time not getting what all the hype was about and thought it, while quite well done, was fairly ordinary.- It'll be interesting to see if I'll change my tune at all after so many years.(2) No real chapter breaks, which is a shame. I like boundaries.06/09/2024 - Prologue(1) You know, I'd just been wondering why the original cover art was "Narcissus" by Caravaggio. I couldn't understand why. Well, the prologue answered that question immediately albeit not directly.- My first thought is it's symbolic of this book in concept. The prologue tells the story of Narcissus, but then adds to it. Which is to say this book might use existing folklore as a base to build its fiction upon.06/12/2024 - Andalusia(1) Melchizedek's interesting. He says he's the Biblical King of Salem, who dealt with Abraham. So, he's either a liar/conman or in some way divine.- You'd think Santiago, who attended seminary, would be either awed or skeptical. He seems neither.- Presuming he's divine, the way he disrupts Santiago's life, overturning the status quo, makes him an archetypical trickster.- This is magical realism. I suppose.06/13/2024 - Tangier(1) "The boy knew that in money there was magic; whoever has money is never really alone."- True, albeit cynical. You're never alone because people want your money.- Of course, it implies the inverse is also true. Losing all his money means he's now really alone and has no ability to make things magically happen.(2) This whole Tangier section is about blessings in disguise and not settling for the familiar.06/14/2024 (1) - The Caravan and Oasis(1) "Once you get into the desert, there's no going back, and, when you can't go back, you have to worry only about the best way of moving forward."- That's the difference between the Crystal Merchant, who looks back and never sees Mecca, and the Englishman, who builds a forge in the desert.- This whole section is like one big Nike ad. So many metaphors all amounting to the same "Just Do It!" call to action.06/14/2024 (2) - The Desert(1) It's interesting how figures here tie themselves into a Biblical lineage, as if to imply this story is Biblical as well.- We saw this previously with the old man who insisted he was the Biblical Melchizedek.- At the oasis, the tribal elder says they were the very people who purchased Joseph and brought him to Egypt.- Like Joseph, Santiago is a foreigner who saves the locals and is made a court official.06/15/2024 (1) - The Military Camp(1) It's around this point in the book that you realize the titular "Alchemist" isn't the alchemist character, but Santiago.- Because turning lead into gold is a metaphor for leaving a mundane life to pursue treasure.(2) "Usually the threat of death makes people a lot more aware of their lives."- Hitting rock bottom usually spurs people into action.- That's why the boy was robbed of everything three times.06/15/2024 (2) - Epilogue(1) Ultimately, this is one of those "it's not you it's me" books.- I can understand why it inspires so many people and why it's one of the most popular books on this site.- But (call me jaded, cynical or a grump) the book-long refrain that the universe conspires to make your dreams come true just seems quixotic and trite.(2) Overall, a better experience than before, but nothing to make me change my rating.audiobook-audible author-latin-american era-early-modern Displaying 1 - 30 of 136.673 reviewsGet help and learn more about the design.

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