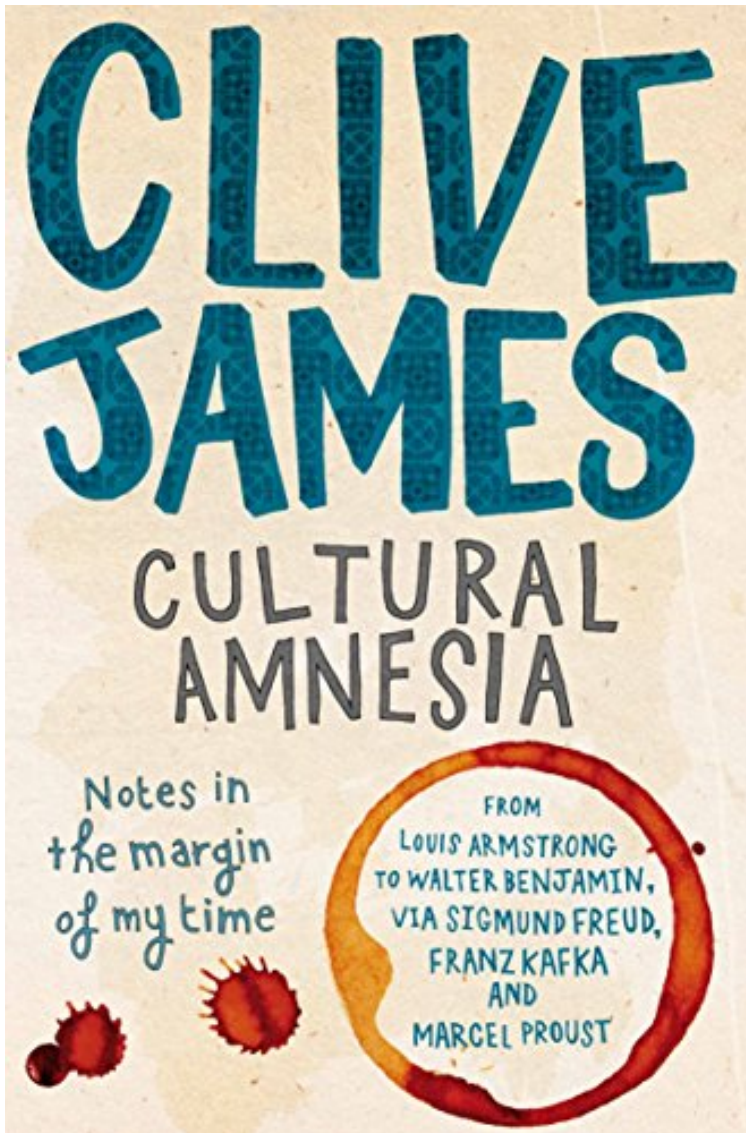


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Cultural Amnesia: Notes in the Margin of My Time (English Edition)



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Description :

Prsentation de l'diteurIn this book can be heard the merest edge of an enormous conversation. As they never were in life, we can imagine the speakers all gathered in some vast room, wearing name tags in case they dont recognize each other (although some recognize each other all too well, and avoid contact). My heroes and heroines are here. The reader will recognize some of their names, while other names will be more obscure. My intellectual betes noires are here too, and the same division might apply. An almanac combining a comprehensive survey of modern culture with an annotated index of who-was-who and what-was-what, Cultural Amnesia is Clive James unique take on the places and the faces that shaped the twentieth-

century. From Anna Akhmatova to Stefan Zweig, via Charles de Gaulle, Hitler, Thomas Mann and Wittgenstein, this varied and unfailingly absorbing book is both story and history, both public memoir and personal record and provides an essential field-guide to the vast movements of taste, intellect, politics and delusion that helped to prepare the times we live in now. Audiofile Memoirist, critic, and talk show host Clive James gives us his own philosophy in his reactions to the lives and art of others, presenting the world in a string of gorgeous cameos. Hitler, Freud, and Louis Armstrong all appear. The author's catholicity of taste astounds. The "c's," for instance, include Albert Camus, G.K. Chesterton, and Tony Curtis. Born in Australia and educated at Cambridge, James has a rich voice, with the slight nasal overtone indicative of a head cold or high culture. He does not believe in God, but his comprehension of recent history approaches omniscience. His honeyed voice and explosive style are both delightful. This is an elite seminar taught by a stand-up comedian. I listened twice, then ordered the text. B.H.C. AudioFile 2008, Portland, Maine-- Copyright AudioFile, Portland, Maine Presentation de l'diteur In this book can be heard the merest edge of an enormous conversation. As they never were in life, we can imagine the speakers all gathered in some vast room, wearing name tags in case they don't recognize each other (although some recognize each other all too well, and avoid contact). My heroes and heroines are here. The reader will recognize some of their names, while other names will be more obscure. My intellectual betes noires are here too, and the same division might apply. An almanac combining a comprehensive survey of modern culture with an annotated index of who-was-who and what-was-what, Cultural Amnesia is Clive James' unique take on the places and the faces that shaped the twentieth-century. From Anna Akhmatova to Stefan Zweig, via Charles de Gaulle, Hitler, Thomas Mann and Wittgenstein, this varied and unfailingly absorbing book is both story and history, both public memoir and personal record and provides an essential field-guide to the vast movements of taste, intellect, politics and delusion that helped to prepare the times we live in now.