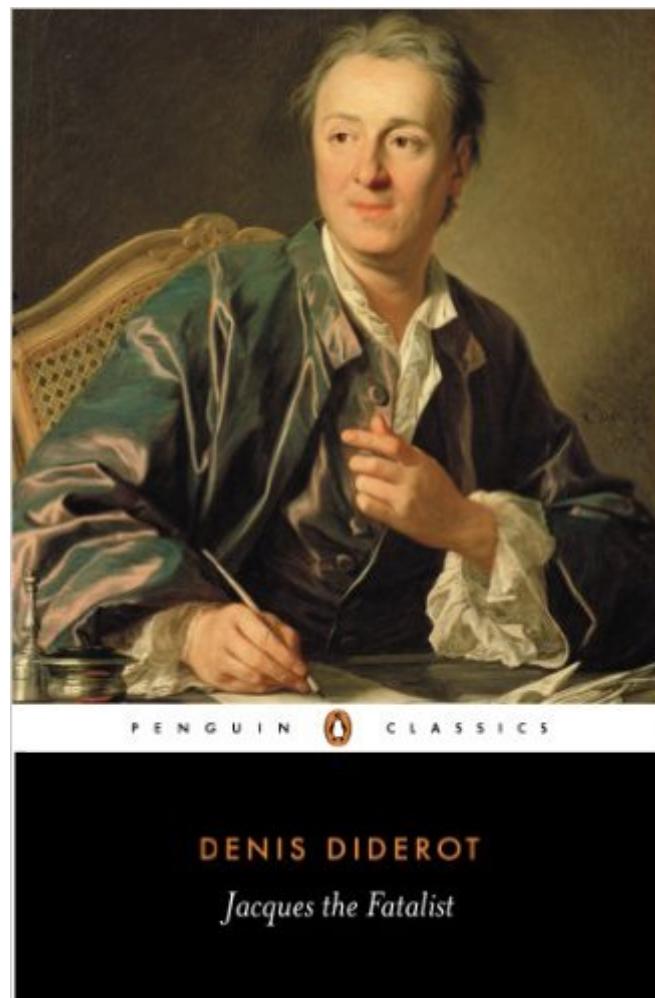


The book was found

# Jacques The Fatalist And His Master (Penguin Classics)



## Synopsis

Denis Diderot (1713-1784) was among the greatest writers of the Enlightenment, and in *Jacques the Fatalist* he brilliantly challenged the artificialities of conventional French fiction of his age. Riding through France with his master, the servant Jacques appears to act as though he is truly free in a world of dizzying variety and unpredictability. Characters emerge and disappear as the pair travel across the country, and tales begin and are submerged by greater stories, to reveal a panoramic view of eighteenth-century society. But while Jacques seems to choose his own path, he remains convinced of one philosophical belief: that every decision he makes, however whimsical, is wholly predetermined. Playful, picaresque and comic, Diderot's novel is a compelling exploration of Enlightenment philosophy. Brilliantly original in style, it is one of the greatest precursors to post-modern literature.

## Book Information

Series: Penguin Classics

Paperback: 272 pages

Publisher: Penguin Classics (May 6, 1986)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0140444726

ISBN-13: 978-0140444728

Product Dimensions: 5.1 x 0.6 x 7.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 7.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars (See all reviews) (14 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #413,591 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #175 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Philosophy > Free Will & Determinism #3135 in Books > Literature & Fiction > History & Criticism > Criticism & Theory #5438 in Books > Reference > Foreign Language Study & Reference

## Customer Reviews

Two centuries or so before "modern" writers began writing experimental novels, Denis Diderot, the force behind the *Encyclopaedia* effort, wrote this strange and indeed very "modern" novel in which the author leads a conversation with the reader, asking him where he (or she, of course) would want to go and what to do with the characters and the story. Here we see the author in the very process of creation, exposing his doubts, exploring his options, and playing with the story. There is really no plot as such. Jacques, a man who seems to believe everything that happens is already written "up

on high", but who nonetheless keeps making decisions for himself, is riding through France with his unnamed master, a man who is skeptic of Jacques's determinism but who remains rather passive throughout the book. Fate and the creator-author will put repeatedly to test Jacques's theory, through a series of more or less fortunate accidents and situations, as well as by way of numerous asides in the form of subplots or stories. The novel is totally disjointed and these asides and subplots blurb all over the place, always interrupted themselves by other happenings. The most interesting of them is the story of Madame de Pommeroy and her bitter but ultimately ineffectual revenge on her ex-lover. Diderot confesses to having taken much from Sterne's "Tristram Shandy" and Cervantes's "Don Quixote". This last novel's influence seems obvious at two levels: Cervantes also talks to the reader, especially in Part Two, and also reflects abundantly on the creative process.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Jacques the Fatalist and His Master (Penguin Classics) Penguin Classics Beyond Good And Evil (Penguin Modern Classics) The Penguin Classics New Penguin Book of English Folk Songs Master Planning Success Stories: How Business Owners Used Master Planning to Achieve Business, Financial, and Life Goals (The Master Plan Book 2) Jacques Pepin's Simple and Healthy Cooking Heidegger: The Question of Being and History (The Seminars of Jacques Derrida) Life and Death in a Coral Sea (The Undersea discoveries of Jacques-Yves Cousteau) Who Was Jacques Cousteau? Manfish: A Story of Jacques Cousteau Jacques PÃƒÂ©pin Heart & Soul in the Kitchen Bugatti: Photographs by Jacques Boulay The Death Penalty, Volume I (The Seminars of Jacques Derrida) Jacques Cousteau: The Sea King Jacques Cousteau's Calypso Jacques Villeneuve (Champion Sports Biography) Jacques Helleu & Chanel Indestructibles: Frere Jacques My Traitor's Heart: A South African Exile Returns to Face His Country, His Tribe, and His Conscience Genghis Khan: His Conquests, His Empire, His Legacy Jerome Robbins: His Life, His Theater, His Dance

[Dmca](#)