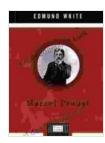
Marcel Proust: A Life in Writing | Penguin Lives

Marcel Proust is one of the most celebrated and influential writers of the 20th century. His masterpiece, *In Search of Lost Time*, is a vast and complex work that explores the nature of time, memory, and art. Proust's life was as extraordinary as his writing. He was born into a wealthy family in Paris in 1871 and grew up in the salons of Belle Époque Paris. He was a brilliant student and a gifted writer, but he also suffered from a variety of health problems, including asthma and neurasthenia. In his early twenties, Proust began work on *In Search of Lost Time*. He spent the rest of his life writing and revising the novel, which was eventually published in seven volumes between 1913 and 1927.



Marcel Proust: A Life (Penguin Lives) by Edmund White		
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Early Life and Education

Marcel Proust was born on July 10, 1871, in Auteuil, a suburb of Paris. His father, Adrien Proust, was a distinguished physician and professor of medicine. His mother, Jeanne Weil, was a well-educated woman from a wealthy Jewish family. Proust was a sickly child and suffered from asthma and other respiratory problems. He was also a very sensitive and introspective child. He loved to read and write, and he spent much of his time alone in his room, imagining stories.

In 1882, Proust entered the Lycée Condorcet, one of the most prestigious schools in Paris. He was a brilliant student and excelled in his studies. He also began to develop his interest in literature and writing. He wrote poetry, short stories, and plays. In 1889, Proust graduated from the Lycée Condorcet and entered the Sorbonne, the University of Paris. He studied law and philosophy, but he also continued to write. In 1895, he published his first collection of short stories, *Pleasures and Days*.

The Salons of Belle Époque Paris

In the 1890s, Proust was a regular guest at the salons of Belle Époque Paris. These salons were gatherings of intellectuals, artists, and socialites. Proust enjoyed the lively conversation and the opportunity to meet new people. He also began to develop his own unique style of writing. His prose was often long and digressive, but it was also very evocative and insightful.

In 1896, Proust published his second collection of short stories, *Swann's Way*. This collection was more successful than his first, and it helped to establish Proust's reputation as a writer. In 1900, Proust began work on his masterpiece, *In Search of Lost Time*. He spent the rest of his life writing and revising the novel, which was eventually published in seven volumes between 1913 and 1927.

In Search of Lost Time

In Search of Lost Time is a vast and complex work that explores the nature of time, memory, and art. The novel is set in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, and it follows the life of Marcel, a young man from a wealthy family. Marcel is a sensitive and introspective young man, and he is often overwhelmed by the complexities of life. He spends much of his time remembering his past and trying to understand the meaning of his life.

In Search of Lost Time is a masterpiece of modern literature. It is a profound and moving exploration of the human condition. The novel is full of rich and complex characters, and it is written in a beautiful and evocative prose style. Proust's novel is a must-read for anyone interested in literature or the human condition.

Later Life and Death

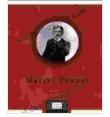
In his later years, Proust became increasingly reclusive. He suffered from a variety of health problems, and he spent much of his time in his cork-lined room in Paris. He continued to write, however, and he published several more volumes of *In Search of Lost Time*. Proust died on November 18, 1922, at the age of 51. He was buried in the Père Lachaise Cemetery in Paris.

Legacy

Marcel Proust is one of the most important and influential writers of the 20th century. His masterpiece, *In Search of Lost Time*, is a vast and complex work that explores the nature of time, memory, and art. Proust's novel is a masterpiece of modern literature, and it is a must-read for anyone interested in literature or the human condition.

EDMUND WHITE

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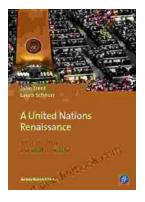
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