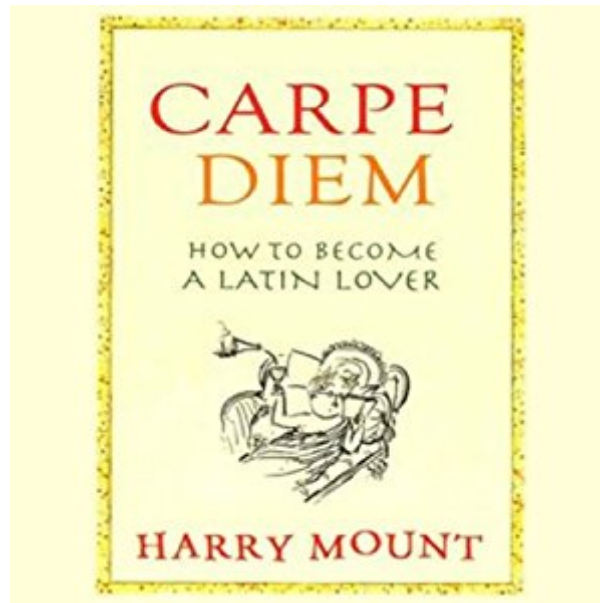


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Carpe Diem: Put A Little Latin In Your Life



Synopsis

In this lighthearted guided tour of Latin, journalist and former Latin tutor Harry Mount breathes life back into the greatest language of all, drawing on everything from a Monty Python grammar lesson to Angelina Jolie's tattoos. Filled with fascinating tidbits and humorous asides, *Carpe Diem* will delight the word lovers who made *Eats, Shoots and Leaves* such a monster hit. Whether we're aware of it or not, Latin is all around us. Consider the sayings in everyday use: *alter ego*, *ad nauseam*, *caveat emptor*, *modus operandi*, *per se*, and, of course, the ever-popular *e pluribus unum*. Even more abundant are words derived from Latin roots: *arena* (from *harena*, meaning "sand"), *auditorium* ("a place of audience"), *stadium* (a running track)...and those are just the theatrical ones! It's inescapable. It's also the most daunting of languages, one that is seemingly obscure and filled with arcane rules and often accompanied by unpleasant memories of adolescence. But, as Mount says in *Carpe Diem*, "Knowing a bit of Latin is an invitation to the biggest room in the building, with a view down the corridor to all the succeeding ages. And you can get your hands on that invitation at any age." --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

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Customer Reviews

I just got a copy of this book, which apparently has sold really well in England. As a Latin teacher, I'm all for anything that might benefit the cause, and this is definitely a good book to give to people who don't know anything about Latin and so don't understand its difficulties and rewards. I know another teacher who has considered recommending this to parents of his students, in part so that they can understand how studying Latin differs from studying modern languages. Even if you don't

have a child, and are just curious as to what all the fuss about Latin is, it's worth reading this. For those who took Latin in high school, this should awake (hopefully pleasant) memories, and might help you shake off the cobwebs. It can serve as a nice little refresher, and there's enough Latin in there (always translated) to remind you how much you still know. Part of the reason that I didn't give the book a higher rating is that there are a few too many mistakes for my taste. While I would not expect a book such as this to give extended grammatical explanations, I would expect the grammar it does cover to be correct, and such is not always the case. If you have no interest in Latin grammar, you can stop reading this review now; suffice it to say that this is a good, but not perfect book, that would benefit greatly from a corrected second edition. If you are interested in grammar, however, here are a few of the mistakes I found (I didn't start jotting down page numbers until about halfway through the book): 132 - "So the supine always ends in -um...." The supine also can end in -u (when it is an ablative, as opposed to an accusative in -um); he uses such a supine on 115, in 'mirabile dictu' and 'horribile dictu'.

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