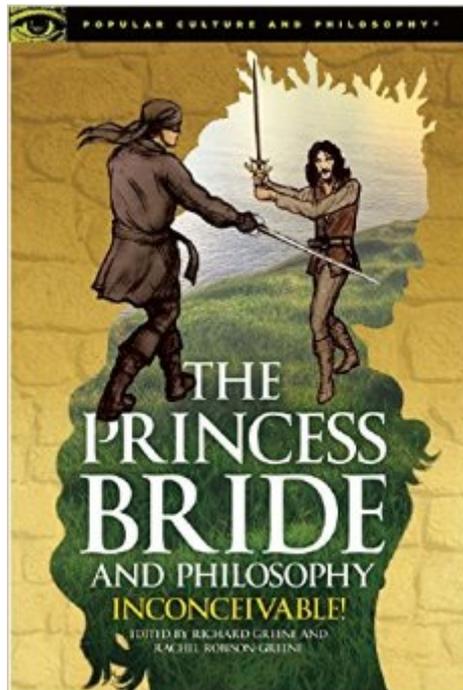# The Princess Bride And Philosophy: Inconceivable! (Popular Culture And Philosophy)

Synopsis

The Princess Bride is the 1987 satirical adventure movie that had to wait for the Internet and DVDs to become the most quoted of all cult classics. The Princess Bride and Philosophy is for all those who have wondered about the true meaning of “Inconceivable!,â • why the name “Robertsâ • uniquely inspires fear, and whether itâ ™s a miracle to restore life to someone who is dead, but not completely dead.The Princess Bride is filled with beliefs that go beyond the evidence, and philosophy can help us to decide when such beliefs can be justified.Westley, Buttercup, Prince Humperdinck, Inigo Montoya, the giant Fezzik, and the Sicilian Vizzini keep on reappearing in these pages as examples of philosophical ideas. Is it right for Montoya to kill the six-fingered man, even though there is no money in the revenge business? Whatâ ™s the best way to deceive someone who knows youâ ™re trying to deceive him? Are good manners a kind of moral virtue? Could the actions of the masked man in black truly be inconceivable even though real? What does ethics have to say about Miracle Maxâ ™s pricing policy? How many shades of meaning can be conveyed by “As You Wishâ •?

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

As a piece of pop culture, The Princess Bride is exceptionally well-suited for a philosophic discussion, which is why I found this book rather disappointing. Most of the essayists seem less concerned with examining The Princess Bride through a philosophic lens, and more with using the

movie and book as a convenient vehicle to talk about their own areas of interest. More than once I felt I could have swapped out The Princess Bride for any similar adventure movie with hardly a significant change made to the essay.There are also a number of dropped balls and outright duds, including an weirdly crude and incredibly surreal moment of pirate-speak homophobia by Jerry Pivan, right smack in the middle of an already tiresome essay about the trap of justifying evil with talk of good. Tim Jones seems to outright dislike the movie, and while that's hardly a requirement for good thinking, I personally felt that his apparent distaste led him to a read that was more shallow than cynical. Buttercup and the Divine Feminine by rights should have been the best essay in the book, but proceeds to ignore all of the neat ways Goldman plays around with gender, adolescence, and the adventure story in favor of a simplistic narrative of villainy and empowerment.Not that there weren't some very good essays to be found. Rachel Robinson Greene's essay on pain, and Ivan Wolfe's essay on Westley's rhetoric, and Darci Doll's essay on the Dao were, I thought, particular stand-outs, and in each the thinking was enriched by their obvious affection for the material. Clint Jones' essay on mythology, the state, and the Dread Pirate Roberts was my favorite, and upped my review by a whole star.It's up to the individual buyer if a good insight here and there is enough to justify the purchase. For me, the answer is still a yes. (But only just.)

The Joshua Heter section of the book I found exceptional.Worth the price right there.

A bit uneven. Some of the essays are well written while others seemed a bit forced.

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