



The Last Chance: Roads of Freedom IV

Jean-Paul Sartre , Craig Vasey (Translator)

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The Last Chance: Roads of Freedom IV Details

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From Reader Review The Last Chance: Roads of Freedom IV for online ebook

Bruce clark says

Fourth and final volume to Sartre's "Roads to Freedom." Completed after Sartre's death from unfinished manuscripts left behind. Satisfying conclusion to Sartre's work.

Tadzio Koelb says

From my review in the Guardian:

"As the uncompleted fourth volume of Roads of Freedom, now one of Sartre's least-read works of fiction, The Last Chance will perhaps attract a small readership – a pity, because the quality of Sartre's writing has never been more evident than in this excellent translation by Craig Vasey. Accompanied here by engaging essays and interviews, it should hopefully renew interest in the first three volumes.

Mathieu and Brunet, now prisoners of war, face the danger (which, chillingly, they do not know to be dangerous) of being sent to a concentration camp. Brunet's activism has brought him trouble, not with camp authorities, but Party insiders, whose shifts in ideology leave him bewildered. Mathieu, wounded, begins his stay in the camp hospital, where definitions of "lucky" can be turned upside-down: a man who lost his legs is sent home.

"Novels of ideas" often age poorly, perhaps because they usually feature automatons who mechanically intone in essay form the debate in the author's head. This fictional counterpart to Being and Nothingness, in contrast, comes across as fresh, organic, and decidedly human, if disappointingly fragmentary."

Ece says

Being an admirer of Sartre and The Roads of Freedom, I loved this forth volume as well. It gives a strange, bitter feeling when you see the unfinished sentences, Sartre's death hits you in the face.
I would recommend this to every Sartre lover without a single tiny doubt.

Chris Watson says

This link was hard to track down....

Most of the 'existentialist' books are quite forgettable: pompous claptrap, really; but this trilogy was excellent -- real literature, full of genuine psychological insight and quiet tragedy.

C. Quabela says

I was pleased to have found this book. It is not easy and cliche as it is I found it at Powell's. I, as most, was under the impression that The Roads of Freedom was simply a trilogy. The essays accompanying it are at times insightful as well as just dull. I was appreciative of their respect of Sartre as a writer rather than a philosopher, for most of what is considered to be existentialism is literary and not codified - something that is often abused with Sartre's Being and Nothingness in academia and followers.

These two stories definitely create a much more holistic representation of this series of books. Unfortunately, with their not having been completed, the tragic and operatic stylistics are not fully formed and so much of the aesthetic impact (an important quality in existential fiction) is lost. Nevertheless the characters of Mathieu and Brunet are given justice in what was completed and so I feel brings, in an outlined version, Sartre's essential vision its justification. Although it is asserted throughout that Sartre had abandoned the final book as an impossible act, I must disagree. Had this novel been fleshed through the temporal nuances it would have been the highest and most profound of his writings, however ambiguous and uncertain it may have ended, and so would have in my opinion reached a level (though not the length) in post-idealist literary history as Proust's *In Search of Time Lost*. Granted, Sartre is far from the literary genius of Proust, the ethos and method would have had a similar impact philosophically between the two in one of the most important aspects of literature - Time - and consequently the hermeneutical depth of the Being of an important part of human development.

Consequently I give this book four stars for what I consider a lack of courage on the part of Sartre, although giving credit to his essential confession to that.

Karthick says

Concluded a journey of about 1400 pages of Sartre's 'Roads of Freedom' series. The novels were interesting in a few parts, but it requires a great patience and a great resistance against boredom to sit through the whole series. The novels do not have the intensity of his *Nausea* nor the lithe movement of his short stories. Of course, Sartre is any day a better thinker (and a better man) than his contemporary Camus, but the latter wrote better stories. Good fiction needs truthful bluffing; maybe that is a task too great for a great philosopher. While 'Roads of Freedom' is indispensable to studies on Sartre, I would not recommend it to someone beginning with the man - one is likely to exercise their free choice to close reading owing to the tediousness of the novels.
