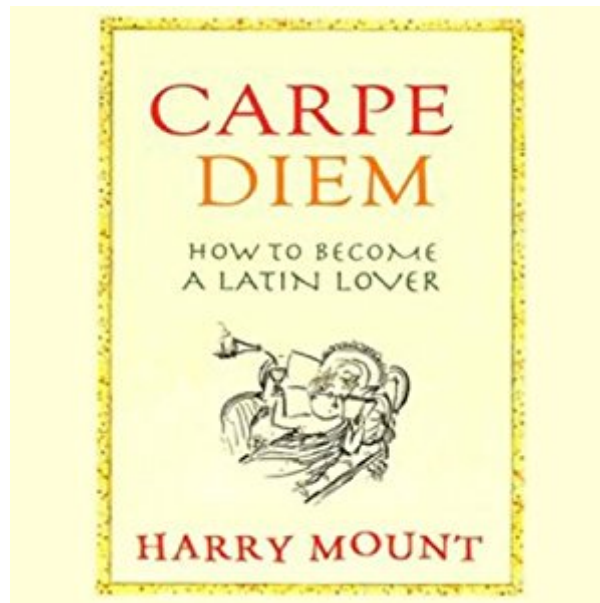




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Carpe Diem: Put A Little Latin In Your Life



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

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Customer Reviews

A Great Book but very disappointed in that this is merely the American version of the original British book "Amo, Amas, Amat... And all That. Only difference is that this edition is a little larger and has a table of contents. Some of the photos are better shots of the same subjects. Otherwise it's the identical book. Too bad this was not indicated in the product description. Amo, Amas, Amat... and All That: How to Become a Latin Lover by Harry Mount (2006-11-02) Was somehow hoping this was a

continuation of Amo Amas Amat...but no such luck.

I loved the audio narration and then bought the book (kindle edition) which made the total experience even better. The narration pace is such that it is really easy to follow the book as you listen. Personally I can't imagine just reading the book will be as much fun. Enjoyed every bit and motivated to invest more in learning Latin!!

As I am relatively new to Latin and beginning to teach it as well, I've enjoyed the "comfortable" approach to this beautiful language. I listen to it in the car, but can't wait to re-read it on the kindle to catch some of the details that cannot really be caught on audio. Enjoy it for reviewing the grammar, history, poetry and trivia of Latin, but use it along with the printed or kindle version to fully appreciate it.

Lessons taught with genuine (British) wit.

This is an excellent Latin primer - set forth in an engaging, yet competent fashion. I studied Latin in high school and reading the book brought back the language with a rush. It's not a novel or a collection of useful sayings such as "Latin for the Illiterati" or "Amo, Amas. Amat and More". but for anyone with an interest in Latin at any level of understanding, it is a worthwhile buy.

Book arrived in perfect condition. Total satisfaction.

What a fun and interesting book. Lots of great info. Great condition and turn a round with this vender. Thanks for all the fun!

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.' 156 - In his chart for the perfect passive, he does not change 'amatus' to 'amati' and 'monitus' to 'moniti,' etc. 179 - he defines 'pro' as "before, in front of," which is fine, though mentioning that it can also mean "on behalf of" would have helped with things like 'pro bono,' and an even fuller discussion of this preposition would have helped with phrases like 'quid pro quo.' I can understand the desire not to overload the reader with definitions, but I think that he could have made a more sensible choice here. 193 - his chart suggests that the interrogative pronoun 'quis, quid' has separate forms in the singular for the masculine and feminine, though this is not the case. Thus his forms 'quam' and 'qua' do not technically exist (for this word, at least). 196 - this has nothing to do with grammar, but for some reason he gives 'miror, -ari' in his vocabulary list for a sentence though no form of that word appears in that sentence. 221 - he says of 'de gustibus non est disputandum,' "A rare use of the gerund," when it is, in fact, a gerundive. He does, however, translate it properly. The above are some of the most glaring mistakes, and while none of them are all that serious, there's little excuse for them to be there. They would bother me more, I suppose, if I thought that people were going to learn Latin only from this book, but I'm not quite sure that such a thing would be possible (except for the brightest and most motivated). All in all, it's a nice little book, and I think it does a good job of showcasing what makes Latin unique.

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