

# Am Dynamite: The Explosive Life and Ideas of Friedrich Nietzsche



## I Am Dynamite!: A Life of Nietzsche by Sue Prideaux

★★★★☆ 4.5 out of 5

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Enhanced typesetting : Enabled

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Friedrich Nietzsche (1844-1900) was a German philosopher, cultural critic, composer, poet, and philologist whose work has exerted a profound influence on modern intellectual history. His writings on morality, religion, and the nature of existence have challenged and inspired generations of thinkers and artists.

## **Life and Career**

Nietzsche was born in Röcken, Saxony, Germany, in 1844. His father, Carl Ludwig Nietzsche, was a Lutheran pastor, and his mother, Franziska Oehler, came from a family of Protestant clergy. Nietzsche's father died when he was four years old, and he was raised by his mother and sister.

Nietzsche showed a talent for music and philology at a young age. He studied classical philology at the University of Bonn and the University of Leipzig. In 1869, he was appointed to the chair of classical philology at the University of Basel.

Nietzsche's health began to decline in the early 1870s. He suffered from severe headaches, eye problems, and digestive problems. In 1879, he resigned from his professorship and spent the rest of his life traveling and writing.

## **Philosophy**

Nietzsche's philosophy is characterized by its radicalism and its rejection of traditional morality and religion. He argued that the traditional values of Christianity and morality were based on a slave morality that valued weakness and submission. He called for a new, affirmative morality that would embrace strength, creativity, and the will to power.

Nietzsche also argued that God is dead and that humans are now responsible for creating their own values and meaning in life. He called for a new, heroic type of human being, the *Übermensch*, who would be free from the constraints of traditional morality and religion.

## **Impact**

Nietzsche's philosophy has had a profound impact on modern intellectual history. His ideas have influenced thinkers as diverse as Sigmund Freud, Martin Heidegger, and Michel Foucault. His work has also been used to justify both fascism and anarchism.

Nietzsche is one of the most important and controversial philosophers in Western history. His ideas continue to challenge and inspire thinkers and artists today.

Friedrich Nietzsche was a brilliant and enigmatic philosopher whose work has had a profound impact on modern intellectual history. His radical ideas on morality, religion, and the nature of existence continue to challenge and inspire thinkers and artists today.



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