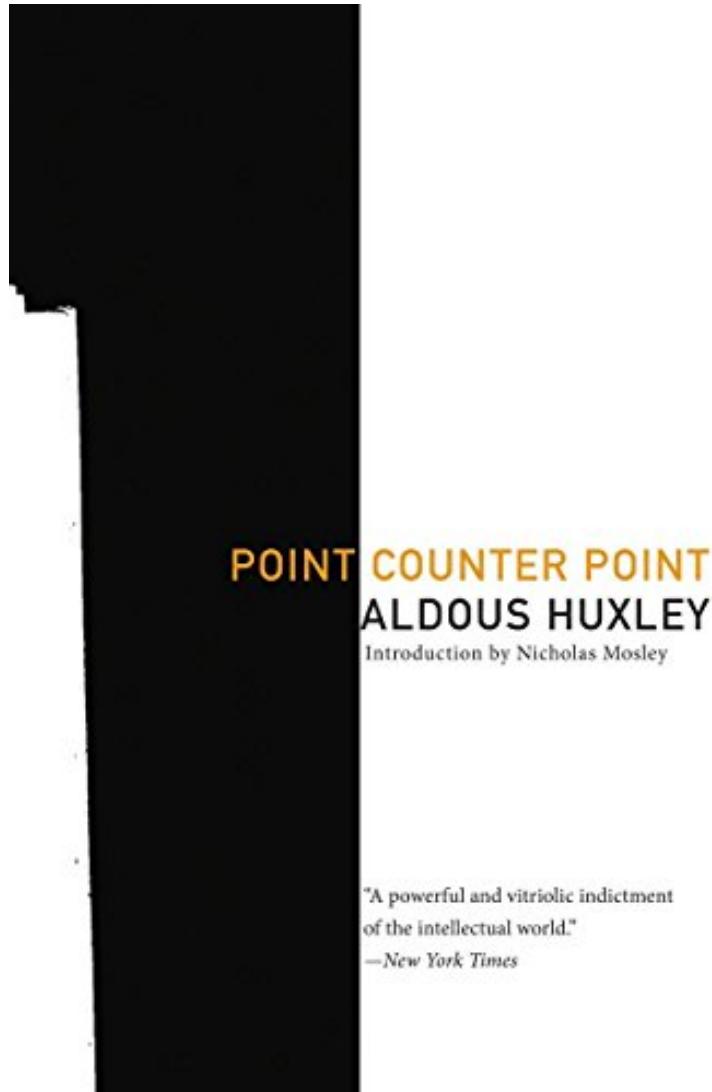


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## Point Counter Point (British Literature)

*Aldous Huxley*

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**Aldous Huxley : Point Counter Point (British Literature)** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Point Counter Point (British Literature):

14 of 18 people found the following review helpful. A profound book by a consistently profound author By Customer In Huxley's books, it's not just the plot that captivates. Huxley's insights on society and people are so on target and so truthful, it's amazing. His ability to translate truth into words is incredible. Point Counterpoint is no exception: "Work's no more respectable than alcohol, and it serves exactly the same purpose: it just distracts the mind, makes a man forget himself. Work's simply a drug, that's all. It's humiliating that men shouldn't be able to live without

drugs, soberly; it's humiliating that they shouldn't have the courage to see the world and themselves as they really are." "But there is in debauchery something so intrinsically dull, something so absolutely and hopelessly dismal, that it is only the rarest beings, gifted with much less than the usual amount of intelligence and much more than the usual intensity of appetite, who can go on actively enjoying a regular course of vice or continue actively to believe in its wickedness." "But the very possession of a body is a cynical comment on the soul and all its ways. It is a piece of cynicism, however, which the soul must accept, whether it likes it or no." If these statements strike you as surprisingly truthful, then Huxley is for you. The theme of *Point Counterpoint* concerns the mind/body dichotomy, which I think is really interesting. It makes you think about yourself a little differently than you may be used to.

1 of 10 people found the following review helpful. It's not a brave new world. By the phoenix king I love science fiction especially books like 1984, a brave new world, and Fahrenheit 451. Unfortunately, this book just never did it for me. I tried several times to pick it up and read it but never made it past page 50. It didn't catch me as well as the books just mentioned. I know it is unfair to judge a book that I haven't finished. However, I feel like it's important for those people who are considering this book due to a brave new world to know that this is not as entertaining or as fast paced as that book was.

0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. My heavens, I have thought exactly the same thing! By bearie q If the measure of a novel is how often it gets you to say to yourself "My heavens, I have thought exactly the same thing!" then the two highest scoring novels I have ever read are "The Brothers Karamazov" and "Point Counter-Point." Huxley's insight into the variety of human thought processes, motivations, and psychologies is downright impressive. And his skill at taking you down one psychological path and then, just when he has gotten you -- sometimes tricked you -- into agreeing with him, to do a U-turn and take you down the very opposite path, is masterful. And if you like "meta," you will love this book, which is meta on many levels, one of the most obvious of which is the fact that the book itself is being written by one of the characters in the book. Fantastic writing -- even the occasional little scientific details are wonderful. My only complaint is the last forty or so pages, in which Huxley basically goes off the rails and has lots of bad things happen to a lot of people for no very good (to me) reason. And why he ended with Burlap is a complete mystery. But those are minor flaws. If you like really, really well written novels, read this one, which is not as well known as it should be.

One of Huxley's masterpieces one of the Modern Library's "100 Best Works of the Century."

.com When it was published in 1928, *Point Counter Point* no doubt shocked its readers with frank depictions of infidelity, sexuality, and the highbrow high jinks of Aldous Huxley's arty characters. What's truly remarkable, however, is how his novel continues to shock today. True, we may hardly lift an eyebrow at poor Marjorie Carling leaving her husband to live in sin with--and get pregnant by--her lover Walter Bidlake. And the sexual exploits of Lady Edward Tantamount or her daughter, Lucy, seem quite in keeping with the behavior expected of such exalted persons by readers inured to the exploits of the British Royals. If the varieties of sexual experience on display in Huxley's novel seem tame by current standards, his clear-eyed dissection of the motives behind them are thrillingly fresh--and his commentaries on everything from politics to ecology sometimes chillingly prescient. Take for example, the wisdom of amateur biologist Lord Edward Tantamount on the subject of non-renewable resources: "No doubt," he said, "you think you can make good the loss with phosphate rocks. But what'll you do when the deposits are exhausted?" He poked Everard in the shirt front. "What then? Only two hundred years and they'll be finished. You think we're being progressive because we're living on our capital Phosphates, coal, petroleum, nitre--squander them all. That's your policy. And meanwhile you go round trying to make our flesh creep with talk about revolutions." When his interlocutor, the fascist politician Everard Webley, demands to know whether Lord Edward wants a revolution, Tantamount first asks whether such an event would reduce the population and check production and then, when assured it would, he responds, "'Then certainly I want a revolution.' The Old Man thought in terms of geology and was not afraid of logical conclusions." Huxley fills his novel with a multitude of characters, from the obscenely wealthy Tantamounts to the priapic painter John Bidlake, his children Walter and Elinor, and their respective mates, Marjorie Carling and Philip Quarles. There is also the venomous Maurice Spandrell, the revolutionary Illidge, the unctuous Burlap, and the happily married (a rarity in this novel) Mark and Mary Rampion, who are the book's moral center--theirs is the one relationship that combines reason and passion in proper measure. They are purportedly in part based on well-known figures of the time such as D.H. Lawrence and Katherine Mansfield. Love, loss, infidelity, and murder are the subjects under discussion as Huxley juxtaposes one point of view against its opposite, and mixes in a healthy dollop of science, politics, religion, and art, as well. *Point Counter Point* is an intelligent novel about the intellectual world, and one that bears up gracefully under the test of time. --Alix Wilber

From Publishers Weekly Huxley's satire of 1920s intellectual life takes formal inspiration from classical music. Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal Published in 1928, Huxley's standard satirizes the intellectual life of the 1920s. This is currently the least expensive edition in print. Copyright 1997 Reed Business Information, Inc.