In this beautifully written account, Julian Young provides the most comprehensive biography available today of the life and philosophy of the nineteenth-century German philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche. Young deals with the many puzzles created by the conjunction of Nietzsche's personal history and his work: why the son of a Lutheran pastor developed into the self-styled “Antichrist”; why this archetypical Prussian came to loathe Bismarck's Prussia; and why this enemy of feminism preferred the company of feminist women. Setting Nietzsche's thought in the context of his times – the rise of Prussian militarism, anti-Semitism, Darwinian science, the “Youth” and emancipationist movements, as well as the “death of God” – Young emphasizes the decisive influence of Plato and of Richard Wagner on Nietzsche's attempt to reform Western culture. He also describes the devastating effect on Nietzsche's personality of his unhappy love for Lou Salomé and attempts to understand why, at the age of forty-four, he went mad.

This book includes a selection of more than thirty photographs of Nietzsche, his friends, and his work sites. Seventeen of the philosopher's musical compositions, which are key to a deeper understanding of his intellectual project, are available online.

Educated at Cambridge University and the University of Pittsburgh, Julian Young is Kenan Professor of Humanities at Wake Forest University, Professor of Philosophy at the University of Auckland, and Honorary Research Professor at the University of Tasmania. A scholar of nineteenth- and twentieth-century German philosophy, he is the author of nine books, most recently *Nietzsche's Philosophy of Religion*, and has been invited to speak at universities and conferences throughout the world.
Note

Chapters and sections with headings in italics discuss Nietzsche's works. The remainder discuss his life. There are thus three ways of reading this book. One can read about Nietzsche's life, about his works, or, best of all, about both his life and his works.

FRIEDRICH NIETZSCHE

A Philosophical Biography

JULIAN YOUNG
Contents

List of Illustrations page x
Acknowledgments xiii
List of Abbreviations xv

PART ONE  •  YOUTH

CHAPTER 1  •  Da Capo
Röcken, 3  •  Naumburg, 12  •  God, 18

CHAPTER 2  •  Pforta
A Divided Heritage, 22  •  The Curriculum, 26  •  The Germania Society, 27  •  Religious Doubt, 28  •  Teenage Rebellion, 29  •  New Friends, 31  •  Leaving School, 32  •  Literary Works 1858–1864, 33  •  Religion, 33  •  Music, 37  •  Tragedy, 40  •  Poetry, 41  •  Morality and Politics, 46  •  Homeland versus World Citizenship, 49  •  Fate and Freedom, 50

CHAPTER 3  •  Bonn
Free at Last, 51  •  Beer-Drinking on the Rhine, 53  •  The Cologne Brothel, 55  •  David Strauss and the Critique of Christianity, 56  •  Leaving Bonn, 61

CHAPTER 4  •  Leipzig
Getting Settled, 63  •  Happy Times, 64  •  The Study of Classics, 67  •  War and Politics, 69  •  Military Service, 72  •  Return to Leipzig: First Meeting with Wagner, 74  •  ‘Fairy-Tale-Like and Seven-League-Bootish’, 78

CHAPTER 5  •  Schopenhauer
The World as Will and Representation, 81  •  Nietzsche's Conversion, 86  •  The Impact of Kant and Lange, 89  •  Criticising Schopenhauer, 90  •  Reconstructing Schopenhauer, 91

PART TWO  •  THE RELUCTANT PROFESSOR

CHAPTER 6  •  Basel
Basel in 1870, 99  •  University Life, 101  •  Colleagues and Friends, 103  •  Burckhardt, 103  •  Overbeck, 104  •  Isle of the Blessed, 105  •  The End of an Idyll, 110

CHAPTER 7  •  Richard Wagner and the Birth of The Birth of Tragedy
The Wagnerian Worldview, 113  •  The Artwork of the Future, 118  •  The Impact of Schopenhauer, 119  •  The Wisdom of Silenus, 124  •  Homer’s Art, 126  •  Greek
vi Contents

Chapter 8 • War and Aftermath 135
The Franco-Prussian War, 136 • Nietzsche’s War, 137 • The Aftermath, 138 • Violence, 139 • Prussia, 141 • On the Future of Our Educational Institutions, 142

Chapter 9 • Anal Philology 148
Rohde’s ‘Higher Advertising’, 150 • Wilamowitz’s Counterblast, 151 • Alienation of Ritschl, 152 • Wagner’s Intervention, 153 • Von Bülow and the ‘Manfred Meditation’, 154 • Retreat to the Mountains, 155 • Anal- Compulsive Philology, 156 • Existential Philology, 156 • Relations with the Wagners, 157 • Five Prefaces to Five Unwritten Books, 158

Chapter 10 • Untimely Meditations 163
Fun in Basel, 163 • Gloom in Bayreuth, 166 • First Untimely Meditation: David Strauss, the Confessor and the Writer, 168 • Rest Cure in Flims, 171 • The Rosalie Nielsen Affair, 172 • Summons to the Germans, 173 • Second Untimely Meditation: The Uses and Disadvantages of History for Life, 175 • Notes from the Underground, 177

Chapter 11 • Aimez-vous Brahms? 182
Depression, Marriage, and Dropping Out, 182 • Wagner in the Balance, 185 • The Home Front, a New Publisher, Women, 189 • Bergin, 191 • Brahms Banned in Bayreuth, 192 • Third Untimely Meditation: Schopenhauer as Educator, 195 • Christmas at Home and the ‘Hymn to Friendship’, 200

Chapter 12 • Auf Wiederschen Bayreuth 201
We Philologists, 203 • A Review, a Farewell to Romundt, a Birthday Greeting to Wagner, and a Health Crisis, 205 • ‘Cure’ in Steinabad, 208 • A New Apartment and New Friends: Paul Rée and Heinrich Köselitz, 212 • Veytaux, Geneva, and a Marriage Proposal, 215 • Wagner in Bayreuth, 217 • The First Bayreuth Festival, 223 • Return to Bayreuth and a Flirtation, 226

Chapter 13 • Sorrento 229
Going South, 230 • Malwida von Meysenburg, 230 • The Villa Rubinacci, 232 • Rosenlaui: Nietzsche and Sherlock Holmes, 235 • Back in Basel, 238 • The Shocking Incident of the Friendly Doctor and the Doctoring Friend, 239

Chapter 14 • Human, All-Too-Human 241
The Turn to Positivism, 242 • The Free Spirit: Nietzsche and the Life-Reform Movement, 244 • The Monastery for Free Spirits, 247 • Human, All-Too- Human: The Attack on Metaphysics, 249 • Why Deconstruct Metaphysics?, 255 • Nietzsche’s Higher Culture, 260 • The Theory of Cultural Evolution, 261 • Rational Living: Slavery, Punishment, Euthanasia, Eugenics, Conservation, 262 • Religion and Art in a Higher Culture, 263 • Globalization, 266 • The Problem of Free Will, 267 • On Man’s Need for Metaphysics, 268
PART THREE • THE NOMAD

CHAPTER 15 • The Wanderer and His Shadow
Reception of Human, All-Too-Human, 273 • Assorted Opinions and Maxims, 275 • Leaving Basel, 276 • St. Moritz, 277 • Health and Epicurus, 277 • The Wanderer and His Shadow, 281 • Building Walden Two, 285 • Women, 287 • Is Nietzsche a Democrat?, 288 • Naumburg, Riva, Venice, Marienbad, Stresa, 289 • Genoa, Recoaro, and Sils Maria, 293

CHAPTER 16 • Dawn
A Book for Slow Readers, 296 • Happiness, 297 • The Theoretical Framework, 299 • Critique of Christian Metaphysics, 300 • Critique of Christian Morality, 301 • The Counter-Ideal to Christianity, 303 • Self-Creation, 304 • The Paradox of Happiness, 307 • The Heroic-Idyllis, 308 • Benevolent Egoism, 309 • Concrete Advice, 312 • The Status of the Theoretical Framework, 313

CHAPTER 17 • The Gay Science
First Summer in Sils Maria, 316 • Enter Eternal Return, 318 • Second Winter in Genoa, 320 • Carmen, St. Januarius, Réé, and Sarah Bernhardt, 321 • Messina, 324 • Idylls from Messina, 325 • The Gay Science, 326 • The Main Argument, 326 • Cultural Evolution, 327 • The Way We Are Now, 329 • Nietzsche’s Future, 330 • Life as an Artwork, 334 • Reality, Truth, and Knowledge, 337

CHAPTER 18 • The Salomé Affair
Lou Salomé, 339 • Nietzsche in Rome, 340 • The Mystery of Sacro Monte and the ‘Whip’ Photograph, 342 • Underhand Dealings, 343 • Nietzsche in Tautenburg, 345 • Elizabeth versus Lou, 346 • She Said She Said He Said, 347 • Lou in Tautenburg, 349 • To Pain, 350 • Family Rupture, 352 • The End of the Affair, 353 • Aftermath, 353

CHAPTER 19 • Zarathustra
Retreat to Rapallo, 357 • Anti-anti-Semitism, 358 • Nietzsche as Wagner’s ‘Heir’, 359 • Second Summer in Sils Maria, 360 • Continuation of the Salomé Affair, 361 • The Shadow of Bernhard Förster, 363 • First Winter in Nice, 364 • Two Disciples, 365 • A New Bible, 366 • Thus Spoke Zarathustra: The Prologue, 367 • Zarathustra Part I: The Speeches of Zarathustra, 369 • Zarathustra Part II, 375 • Zarathustra Part III, 380 • Zarathustra Part IV, 383 • The Ass Festival, 384

CHAPTER 20 • Nietzsche’s Circle of Women
Joseph Paneth, 387 • Resa von Schirnhofer, 388 • The ‘Other’ Nietzsche, 389 • Meta von Salis, 390 • Third Summer in Sils Maria, 390 • Helen Zimmern, 391 • Heinrich von Stein, 392 • Reconciliation with Elizabeth in Zurich, 394 • Helene Druskowicz, 395 • Second Winter in Nice, 395 • Fourth Summer in Sils Maria, 396 • Nietzsche and His Feminist Friends, 398 • The Försters, 400 • The ‘Schmeitzner Misère’, 401 • Third Winter in Nice, 402 • Nietzsche’s Cosmopolitanism, 403 • Publishing Beyond Good and Evil, 404 • ‘Dynamite’, ‘Junker Philosophy’, ‘Pathological’, 405
Contents

CHAPTER 21 • Beyond Good and Evil
The Heart of Darkness, 407 • Theoretical Philosophy: The 'Prejudices' of
Metaphysicians, 411 • The Metaphysics of Power, 414 • Epistemology, 416 • Cultural Criticism, 417 • How to Overcome Diseased Modernity: Philosophers of the Future, 422 • Nietzsche's 'Republic', 423 • Hierarchy, 424 • The Slavery Issue, 425 • Women Again, 427 • Morality, Religion, and Art in the New World, 429

CHAPTER 22 • Clearing the Decks
Fifth Summer in Sils Maria, 432 • Explosions Below, 433 • Hymn to Life, 433 • A Month in the Country, 435 • Fourth Winter in Nice, 436 • Preparations for Greatness, 436 • The Prefaces of 1886, 437 • The Gay Science, Book V: Being Scientific about Science, 439 • The Wanderer Speaks, 443 • Nietzsche's Undiscovered Land, 444 • Communal Health, 445 • Mental Health, 446 • 'A Lovely Thought: Via Sils to Greece!', 448

CHAPTER 23 • The Genealogy of Morals
Parsifal, Dostoevsky, and a 'Well-Intentioned' Earthquake, 450 • Youths and Anti-Semites, 452 • Intermezzo, 452 • Depressed in Chur, 453 • Fifth Summer in Sils Maria, 454 • Fifth and Final Winter in Nice, 457 • Literary Projects, 459 • On the Genealogy of Morals, 460 • First Essay: 'Good and Evil', 461 • Good and Bad, 464 • Second Essay: The Morality of Custom and the Sovereign Individual, 465 • Origins of the Bad Conscience, 468 • The Second Essay's Contribution to a Vision of the Future, 470 • Third Essay: What Do Ascetic Ideals Mean?, 471 • Wagner and the Ascetic Ideal, 471 • Sex and the Philosopher, 472 • Perspectivism and Objectivity, 473 • The Ascetic Ideal as Practised and Propagated by Priests, 476 • The Ascetic Ideal in Modernity, 478 • What Is Wrong with the Ascetic Ideal?, 479 • Science and the Ascetic Ideal, 480 • Masters of the Universe, 482 • The Question of Method, 483

CHAPTER 24 • 1888
Winter in Nice, 485 • First Visit to Turin, 486 • Sic Incipit Gloria Mundi, 487 • Last Summer in Sils Maria, 489 • Visitors, 490 • Writings in Sils Maria: The Wagner Case, 492 • Decadence, 493 • The Story of The Ring, 495 • Writings in Sils Maria: Twilight of the Idols, 497 • What Is the Nature of Reality?, 498 • What Is Freedom?, 499 • What Is Happiness?, 500 • Why Is Willing the Eternal Return 'Dionysian'?, 501 • How Can an 'Immoralist' Deal with Harmful Actions?, 503 • Isn't Selfishness Harmful?, 505 • What Is Wrong with the Germans?, 506 • What Would You Like to See Replace Modern Culture?, 508 • What Is the Place of Art in Your New Society?, 508 • Last Stay in Turin, 509 • The Antichrist, 509 • Judaism and the Origin of Slave Morality, 510 • The Historical Jesus, 511 • Paul's Perversion, 512 • The Charges against Christianity, 512 • The Great Noon, 514 • Religion in Nietzsche's 'Republic', 517 • Ecce Homo, 518 • How One Becomes What One Is, 520 • What Nietzsche Became, 522 • Deploying the Artillery, 523 • Nietzsche's Mental Condition, 525

CHAPTER 25 • Catastrophe
Becoming God, 528 • The Horse Story, 531
# Contents

## CHAPTER 26 • The Rise and Fall of The Will to Power

- The Casaubon Impulse, 536
- The Explanation of All Events, 537
- Revaluation of All Values, 539
- History of a Failed Literary Project, 540
- Intellectual Cleanliness, 542
- The Cosmological Doctrine, 543
- The Biological Doctrine, 545
- The Psychological Doctrine, 546
- What Remains of the Will to Power?, 547
- The Problem of the 'Healthy Monster', 548

## CHAPTER 27 • The End

- In the Basel Clinic, 550
- In the Jena Asylum, 551
- In Naumburg, 552
- Becoming a Star, 553
- Elizabeth Cashes In, 554
- The Shrine in Weimar, 556
- Nietzsche’s Death, 558

## CHAPTER 28 • Nietzsche’s Madness

- Chronology
- Notes
- Bibliography of Secondary Literature
- Index

Music of Friedrich Nietzsche with Commentary by Wolfgang Bottenberg

(on the Web site for this book)
List of Illustrations

Plates follow page xvi

3. The vicarage in Röcken, where Nietzsche was born, with his father's church behind. Photo the author.
4. 18 Weingarten, Franziska Nietzsche's house in Naumburg. Photo the author.
5. Nietzsche, aged 17. Photo GSA 101/1.
9. Arthur Schopenhauer, the 'heavenly picture of our master' by Jules Luntenschütz. Oil-painting Schopenhauer-Archiv, Universitätsbibliothek, Frankfurt a.m.
11. The Wagners' house at Tribschen, Lucerne. Photo the author.
12. Richard and Cosima Wagner in May 1872, the time of their transfer to Bayreuth. Photo (by F. Luckhardt) Richard Wagner Museum, Bayreuth.
13. Nietzsche with his friends Erwin Rohde (on left) and Carl von Gersdorff, October 1871. Photo GSA 101/41.
14. Wahnfried, the Wagners' house in Bayreuth. Photo the author.
15. The Festival Theatre in Bayreuth. Photo the author.
22. Nietzsche's room in the Durisch house. Photo the author.
23. The 'mighty pyramidal block of stone' by Lake Silverplana where the thought of 'eternal return' first came to Nietzsche. Photo the author.
24. Lou Salomé in 1882, the year of the 'Salomé affair'. Photo GSA 101/92.
25. ‘You are going to women? Then don’t forget the whip’. Lou Salomé, Paul Réé, and Nietzsche, Lucerne, May 1882. Photo (by Jules Bonnet) Wikimedia Commons.
29. Lake Silverplana, looking towards Sils Maria. Photo the author.
32. Elizabeth Förster-Nietzsche and Chancellor Adolf Hitler. Photo GSA 72/1596.
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I am deeply grateful to the following: Curt Paul Janz for an illuminating correspondence concerning the infamous ‘whip’ photograph; Professor Gerhard Schaumann, who spent an entire day showing me round Tautenburg, the place of Nietzsche’s tête-à-tête with Lou Salomé, and his wife, Karin, who introduced me to the Saale-Unstrut wines with which Nietzsche grew up; Frau Petra Dorfmüller, the archivist of Schulpforte, who gave me great insight into the school as it was in Nietzsche’s time; Dr. Gudrun Föttinger, acting director of the Wagner Museum in Bayreuth, who, in the midst of the 2007 Festival, talked to me at length about early Wagner productions; Professor Mario Russo, who enabled me finally to track down what remains of the Villa Rubinacci in Sorrento; Wolfgang Bottenberg, who, as well as producing the recordings of Nietzsche’s music available on the Web site for this book, illuminated many aspects of his life and thought; Joanna Bottenberg for being similarly illuminating and for wonderful hospitality in Montreal; Peter Loptson, who, as usual, kept me up to the mark philosophically, as well as correcting me on several points of nineteenth-century history; Friedrich Voit, as always my backstop on difficult issues of translation; Christine Swanton, who on countless occasions directed me away from the false and towards the true; my proof-reader, Mary Montgomery, who saved me from numerous grammatical solecisms; and my editor, Beatrice Rehl, who has been consistently enthusiastic and wise. Above all, I am grateful to Anja van Polanen Petel: only a superwoman could have borne, year after year, a husband vanished without trace into the depths of the nineteenth century.

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List of Abbreviations

WORKS BY NIETZSCHE

The works Nietzsche himself published are cited using the following abbreviations: Roman numerals refer to major parts of the works, Arabic numerals refer to sections, not pages. References to KGW and KSA cite a volume number followed by the notebook number and, in brackets, the note number (e.g., KSA 13 14 [204]). References to KGB cite a volume number followed by a letter number (e.g., KGB 11.3 393). The translations of KGB, KGW, and KSA are entirely my own. I have sometimes modified the translations of Nietzsche's published works that I cite.


EH Ecce Homo in Ridley and Norman.


HH Human, All-Too-Human in Heller and Hollingdale.


KSA Kritische Studienausgabe (15 vols.) eds. G. Colli and M. Montinari (Berlin: de Gruyter, 1999).
List of Abbreviations


TI Twilight of the Idols in Ridley and Norman.


WB Wagner in Bayreuth in Breazeale and Hollingdale.

WC The Case of Wagner: A Musician's Problem in Ridley and Norman.


WS The Wanderer and His Shadow in Heller and Hollingdale.


OTHER WORKS


2. Franziska Nietzsche (Nietzsche's mother) aged about 25.

3. The vicarage in Röcken, where Nietzsche was born, with his father's church behind.

5. Nietzsche, aged 17.

7. Paul Deussen, aged about 19.

8. Nietzsche, aged 24, at the time of his military service.
9. Arthur Schopenhauer, the 'heavenly picture of our master' by Jules Luntenschütz.

10. Franz Overbeck.

11. The Wagner's house at Tribschen, Lucerne.
12. Richard and Cosima Wagner in May 1872, the time of their transfer to Bayreuth.
13. Nietzsche with his friends Erwin Rohde (on left) and Carl von Gersdorff, October 1871.
14. Wahnfried, the Wagners’ house in Bayreuth.

Here where my delusions found peace

WAHNFRIED

Name this house.
15. The Festival Theatre in Bayreuth.


17. Elizabeth Förster-Nietzsche (Nietzsche's sister), aged about 30.

19. Heinrich Köselitz ('Peter Gast').
20. Mathilde Trampedach.

21. The Durisch house in Sils Maria. Nietzsche's room top right, at the back.
22. Nietzsche’s room in the Durisch house.
23. The ‘mighty pyramidal block of stone’ by Lake Silverplana where the thought of ‘eternal return’ first came to Nietzsche.

24. Lou Salomé in 1882, the year of the ‘Salomé affair’.
25. ‘You are going to women? Then don’t forget the whip’.

27. Resa von Schirnhofer.

29. Lake Silverplana, looking towards Sils Maria.

31. Nietzsche in May 1899, shortly before his death.

32. Elizabeth Förster-Nietzsche and Chancellor Adolf Hitler.