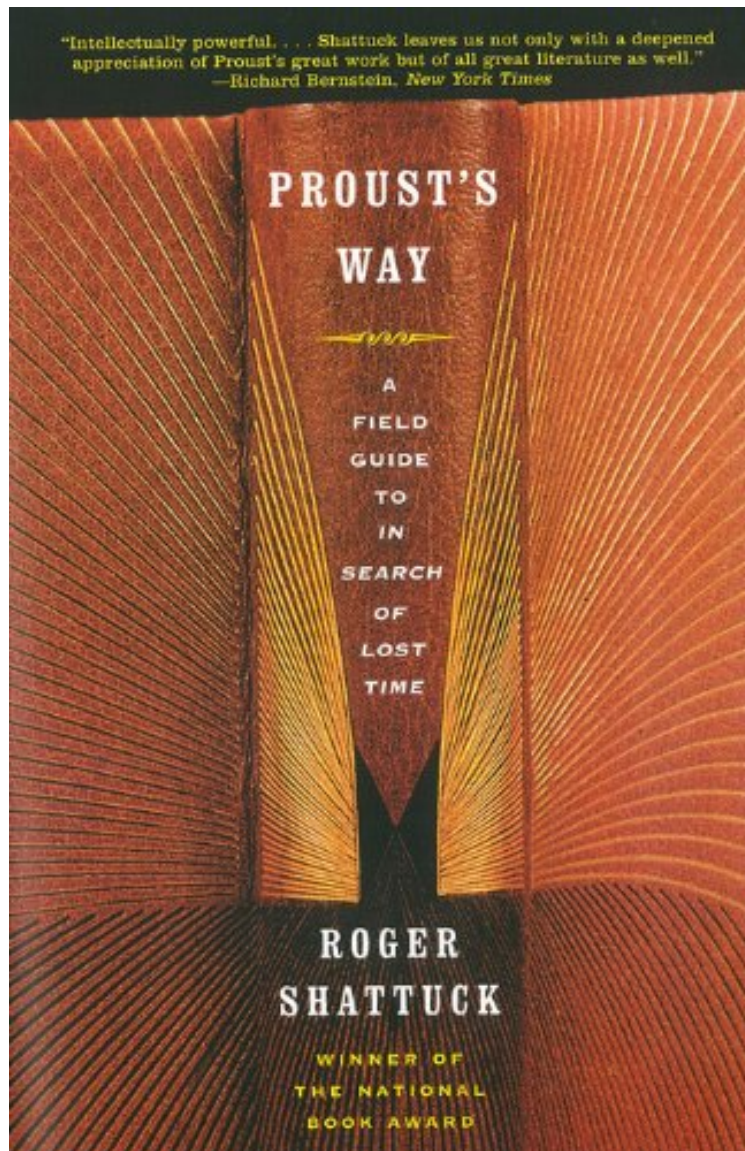


(Read free) Proust's Way: A Field Guide to In Search of Lost Time

Proust's Way: A Field Guide to In Search of Lost Time

Von Roger Shattuck

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Von Roger Shattuck : Proust's Way: A Field Guide to In Search of Lost Time before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Proust's Way: A Field Guide to In Search of Lost Time:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Don't venture forth without this guide!Von Charles S. HouserRoger Shattuck has provided a book that truly lives up to its subtitle: A Field Guide to In Search of Lost Time. The highly credentialed and astutely discerning author gives both

the first-time reader of Proust and the Proustian scholar useful information that will help them read, enjoy, and plumb the depths of Proust's massive oeuvre. I count myself among the former group, having made a number of attempts at reading *In Search of Lost Time*, but always managing to stall out somewhere in the middle of *Swann's Way* and then jumping around the other volumes looking for amusing sections. Although certain chapters have been previously published, Shattuck has taken care to fully integrate them into this Field Guide, and readers will probably be best served by reading the book from cover to cover. Some chapters, I suspect, will be more meaningful to me after I've read more of the novel, but the ones I found most useful as a novice Proustian were "Proust's Complaint" (the "clouding of the mind at the moment of achieving what it most desires") and "How to Read a Roman-Fleuve" (Check out the footnote on p. 25: it gives an abbreviated reading plan for those who aren't ready to read the entire 3,000 page novel from beginning to end). I also found the discussions about the English translations in the chapter on "Continuing Disputes" especially fascinating. Owners of the Random House/Vintage 3-volume *Remembrance of Things Past* should be warned that all citations are keyed to the 6-volume Modern Library edition of *In Search of Lost Time*. This is frustrating if you want to read a passage in context, but, on the whole, is not especially problematic since Shattuck quotes the passages that are most germane to his arguments. The Selected Bibliography is extremely short, but I suspect every work that made it to the list has earned Shattuck's high regard and is worth looking into. Proust's *Way* is a thoughtful work that any serious reader of Proust will want to keep at his or her elbow when reading *In Search of Lost Time*.

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. The Search for the Lost Proust Von Richard S. Sullivan It's like an addiction. First I order William Carter's great biography of Marcel Proust. It's brand new and at 800 pgs hardly an outline, but still quite a romp. After 300 pages I'm hooked. So I go order part I of the "The Search for Lost Time". Ever since high school I've been telling myself: someday, someday... Well I just turned 60 and it's now someday. One hundred pages into "Swann's Way" and I am in a swelter. Whoa... I knew Proust was not something one dips only their little toe into. Luckily along comes my life raft! I've been a fan of Roger Shattuck ever since I read his *The Banquet Years* and he now, just in time, he has this guide to Proust. Now I am juggling three books at once and one of them 3000 pages in length. I think I should have started at age 50. The guide has been a godsend! Shattuck can balance the academic with the popular. Right off the bat you get hit with words like hypotaxis and parataxis, but not to fret, he nicely explains in simple terms what they mean. And he understands that not all of us stayed awake in French class and kindly provides translations of the French quotes. Even better, he does not sneer at those of use who will read the Search in English saying that the newest translation is more than adequate. Shattuck debunks the common idea that Proust's Search is a prissy and doting exposition of the ways and byways of the fin de siecle French upper class. Far from it. Proust was a wicked observer with a keen sense of humor. Shattuck tells us that: "Reading Proust bears many resemblances to visiting a zoo. The specimens he collected from the remotest corners of society amaze and amuse us in their variety." In fact there is a whole chapter in the Guide on the comic vision in the Search. The most important chapter in the book for me at my entry point to reading the Search is "How to Read a Roman-Fleuve." Here is a multitude of tips on how to deal with many of the complexities in the Search. He also points out that we must pay attention and what seems to be going nowhere eventually comes together. And he has lots more to aid the reader He has some nice charts for keeping track of "places", "characters", "couples", and "scenes." There are other chapters on Proust's sources, the length issue, etc. which I have skimmed through but I am sure they will become more valuable as I penetrate further into the Search. This is not a book to read in place of reading Proust. It is clearly intended as a guide to a first time reader or one re-reading the Search. If you do buy it, you will be sorely tempted to read Proust's "The Search for Lost Time, which by the way is the newest translation of what was once called "Remembrance of Things Past." If you intend to read the Search, this book is a must. Now if I only new what a Roman-Fleuve was.

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A strong beginning, pedantic middle, weak conclusion. Von Mark Calkins Shattuck's guide is at times brilliant, at others, pedantic. The opening chapters about Proust's life and ways to approach the novel are surprisingly the best-an excellent resource for beginning Proust readers. I highly recommended them. The middle chapters outlining Proust's "vision" and aesthetics make some intelligent and convincing points, but are over-general and are curiously earnest in their tone. I think he's very articulate about the "double I" (Marcel vs. Narrator), but neologisms like "soul error" to explain Marcel's dissipation are confusing, and the diagrams seem to function to convince rather than to elucidate. Chapter VIII, "Continuing Disputes," contains some useful information for scholars about the current state of Proust studies, but borders on self-indulgence. And while I appreciate his shattering criticism of the "critique gntique" behind the new Pliade edition of the novel, at other times Shattuck just sounds like the curmudgeon of Proust criticism. The book ends with several appendices, which make the book conclude in a stutter. In conclusion: I would recommend the first chapters to beginning Proust readers, but beyond that it did not add much to my understanding of Proust's novel.

Kurzbeschreibung "Shattuck leaves us not only with a deepened appreciation of Proust's great work but of all great literature as well." Richard Bernstein, New York Times For any reader who has been humbled by the language, the

density, or the sheer weight of Marcel Proust's *In Search of Lost Time*, Roger Shattuck is a godsend. Winner of the National Book Award for Marcel Proust, a sweeping examination of Proust's life and works, Shattuck now offers a useful and eminently readable guidebook to Proust's epic masterpiece, and a contemplation of memory and consciousness throughout great literature. Here, Shattuck laments Proust's defenselessness against zealous editors, praises some translations, and presents Proust as a novelist whose philosophical gifts were matched only by his irrepressible comic sense. *Proust's Way*, the culmination of a lifetime of scholarship, will serve as the next generation's guide to one of the world's finest writers of fiction.

From *Library Journal* If you have ever wanted to tackle Proust's *In Search of Lost Time* but find it a bit daunting, this field guide will be just the right thing. Shattuck, who won a National Book Award in 1974 for Marcel Proust, focuses here on Proust's place in 20th-century literature. He then provides a guide through Proust's masterpiece. He explains the major settings of the work, summarizes character and plot, and discusses central themes. Shattuck acknowledges that there is no one right interpretation of *In Search of Lost Time* but succeeds in providing a framework to help readers get through it. He addresses readers coming to the work for the first time, although those familiar with the work who are still struggling with its various facets will appreciate Shattuck's insights. Shattuck is most helpful in placing Proust and the work in the context of his time, giving a balanced treatment to the novel as a whole. Written in a style that will appeal to both the scholar and the lay reader, Shattuck's field guide should be a standard for years to come.

DRon Ratliff, Emporia P.L., KS Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc. Kurzbeschreibung "Shattuck leaves us not only with a deepened appreciation of Proust's great work but of all great literature as well." Richard Bernstein, *New York Times*

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