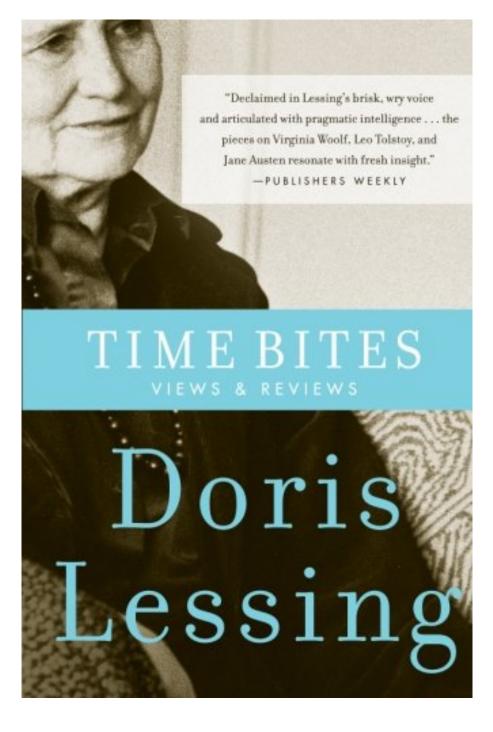


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11 of 11 people found the following review helpful.

Lessing on Your Mind

By David Schweizer

I am old enough to remember a time when every self-respecting woman had a copy of the "Golden Notebooks" on her shelf. I am not sure that books are important to today's hip woman, but I have been a life long reader of hers, and she continues in her 80s to be a great humanitarian if not quite the great writer she used to be. "Time Bites" which could just as well be called "tidbits" is not much in the way of a book. These are not even proper essays really, certainly not prize winners, but they are 'occasional pieces' which is a respectable genre in itself. She writes appreciations of writers such as D.H. Lawrence and Virginia Woolf, she addresses what she calls the stupidity of political correctness which, correctly, she says has destroyed American universities, she reminds us of the insanity of the American left, but also of the lunatic right, she speaks in her old age of moderation, shares her love of animals, and speaks yet again to the tragedy of Zimbabwe, her former home country. The voice of sanity is rare these days, so I highly recommend this collection, which includes dozens of short, probing, gently critical pieces. Lessing, one feels, cares far more about the world than about herself. How's that for a recommendation?

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful.

Decent, sensible, clear but without poetic fire or humor

By Shalom Freedman

This collection of small essays reveals to us the world of Nobel Prize winner Doris Lessing. Lessing is an

extremely serious writer, one with a strong moral sense. She writes here about a number of her fellow writers, D.H.Lawrence, Virginia Woolf, Jane Austen, A.C.Coppard, Bulgakov, George Meredith, Olive Schreiner, Tolstoy- about the writer who has meant the most to her Idries Shah, and the religious philosophy he espouses, Sufism- about animals, especially cats, about being young and being old, about the changes she has seen in writers mentality and motivation in her lifetime, about Education, about the tragedy of Zimbabwe, about Opera and her connection with the composer Philip Glass, about the difference between writing fiction and writing autobiography, about the satisfaction of knowing her book 'The Golden Notebook' has been read and enjoyed by so many people in so many different places. She also writes an essay about the wisdom of 'Ecclesiastes'. She writes of its prose. "From the very first verse of Ecclesiastes you are carried along on a running tide of sound, incantantory, almost hypnotic, and it is easy to imagine yourself sitting among this man's pupils, listeningt them..... Your ears are entranced, but at the same time you are very much alert."

I would say of this collection on the whole that there are spots in it in which the reader will be made very alert and feel that they have truly learned and enjoyed. But that there is not real inspiration or fire or humor in it. A decent work.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

one to buy

By bookworm

I recently got this book out of the library and had time to read only a few of the essays. I was going to renew it ,but instead am buying it because I found what she had to say so profoundly true, that I had to own it. I am going to have all of my American friends and family read "The Wrong Way Home"--she speaks to the idea of terrorism and cult thinking and how to defeat it with books and education worldwide.

Some of the essays are short but provacative. She covers so many subjects and mentions so many writers that I've never heard of that I think I will have to write them down to read later. I've read many of her other books, The Canopus in Argus Series, Mara and Dan, The Good Terrorist, The Fifth Child, to name a few--they are all so different, and she never fails to take me away to that other place I go to in a good book. And I love that she has an affinity for cats. She is so wise, and so funny sometimes....I'd like to take her to lunch.

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