

## The Letters of Ayn Rand

Ayn Rand, unlike how she's misrepresented, defamed, reviled, and shunned by the mainstream establishments, was extraordinarily intelligent, honest, and wise, compassionate, generous, and benevolent, solid with integrity and honor--as evident in the art she created, her novels, essays, speeches, in her marriage and friendships, Even in her letters, 2000+ of them, written to people of diverse occupations and celebrity, her noble spirit shines out brightly. Here are two letters she wrote to ordinary fans (selected from *Letters of Ayn Rand* Edited by Michael S Berliner, 1995).

-Monart Pon, Jan 2022

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[P623]

To Marjorie Roscam Abbing, a fan

March 28, 1964

Dear Miss Abbing:

You write that you are unbearably bored at school, and ask me whether it is treason not to love every second of one's life. No, it certainly is not treason. One cannot force oneself to feel an emotion contrary to the facts with which one is dealing. There are many things in life which are unbearably boring and, unfortunately, school seems to be one of them everywhere in the world. When you have to deal with the boring or the unpleasant, do it as conscientiously as you can and get it over with, but do not reproach yourself for your own feeling when it matches the facts.

You ask me which books I have enjoyed most and which do not clash with my philosophy. My favorite writer is Victor Hugo whom I admire literarily. I do not agree with his philosophical ideas, but he presents a heroic image of man and that is a very rare value in literature. There are no books with which I agree fully, though I may enjoy some particular aspect of them. Literarily (not philosophically), I like Dostoyevsky, O. Henry, Rostand.

I don't mind if you care to write to me again, and I will be pleased to hear from you, but I cannot promise to answer you because, unfortunately, my working schedule does not leave me much time for correspondence.

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[P612]

To Rudolph G Crute, a fan

August 24, 1963

Dear Mr. Crute:

r sincerely appreciate the fact that you asked me to become your "Pen-Pal." You are quite right when you say that you are not the only one who has asked this, but you are the first "GI" and this does make a difference. So I am willing to try it. You are the first whose invitation I have accepted.

r must warn you that letter writing is extremely difficult for me, because I spend most of my time writing for publication, and letter writing requires a different mental set. Besides, my time is very limited. So, if you are willing to excuse in advance the fact that I will be a very slow and irregular correspondent, I am willing to try. (My secretary, to whom I am dictating this, is grinning--she knows how many hundreds of letters I have left unanswered.) But I feel a deep sympathy for the fact that you will not find much intellectual conversation in the armed services, and if I can help you to bear intellectual loneliness, r will try.

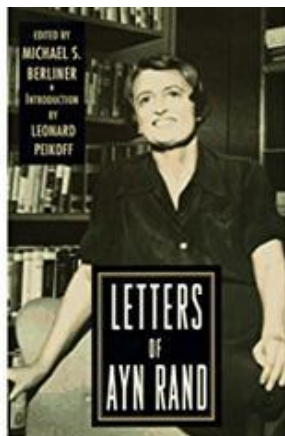
You ask whether Atlas Shrugged represents the present or the future. The answer is: both. To be exact, the action of Atlas Shrugged takes place in the near future, about ten years from the time when one reads the book. The philosophical and political trends which are destroying the country in my novel, exist today and dominate our culture. Their practical results have not yet reached the stage portrayed in Atlas Shrugged, but we are moving in that direction. However, a trend can be stopped and changed. History is determined by men's philosophical convictions. It is philosophy that brought the world to its present state, and it is only philosophy that can save it--a philosophy of reason, individualism and capitalism.

(By the way, Pal, don't write such things as: " About this book I would like an honest answer." I don't give any other kind of answers.)

If what you meant by asking if I'm like the characters I create is: do I really mean the things I write and do I practice what I preach?-the answer is: Brother, and how! No other type of person could have written my books.

With best regards--and waiting for your answer.

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