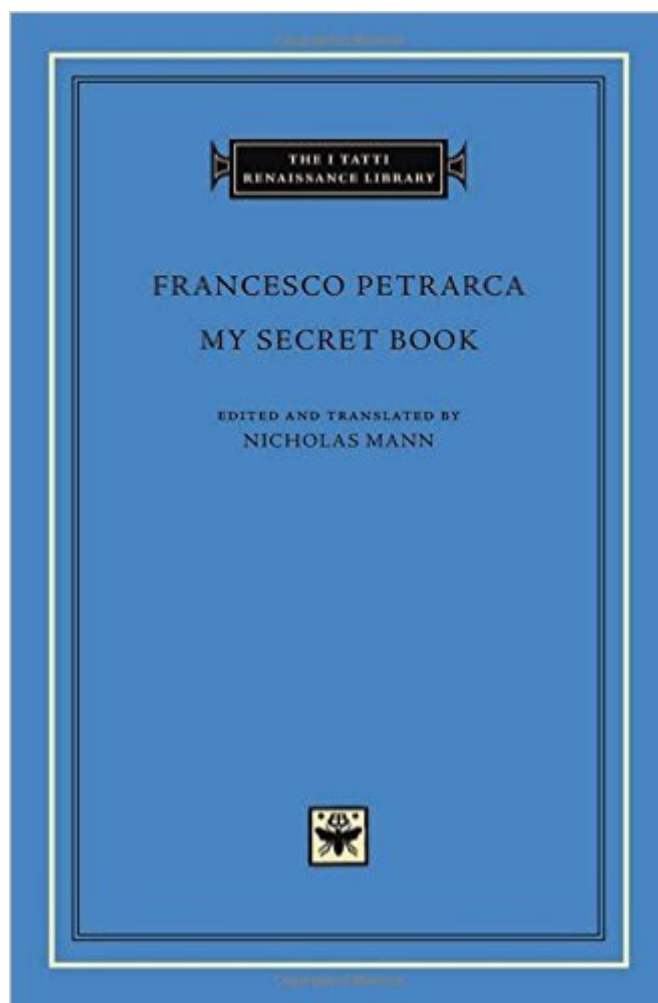


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My Secret Book (The I Tatti Renaissance Library)



Synopsis

Francesco Petrarca (1304–1374), one of the greatest of Italian poets, was also the leading spirit in the Renaissance movement to revive literary Latin, the language of the Roman Empire, and Greco-Roman culture in general. *My Secret Book* (*Secretum*) records the private conflict of my thoughts, in the form of a dialogue between Franciscus and Augustinus in the presence of a beautiful woman, Truth personified. The discussion reveals remarkable self-awareness as Petrarca probes and evaluates the springs of his own morally dubious addictions to Fame and Love.

Book Information

Series: The I Tatti Renaissance Library (Book 72)

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Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars See all reviews (1 customer review)

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Customer Reviews

Nicholas Mann and the I Tatti Library have achieved something very special here. Petrarch's private, secret thoughts are beautifully translated. The "secret book" is written as a dialogue between Franciscus and Augustinus both of whom are "in the presence of a beautiful woman." Lineated Latin text with facing English translation (just like Loeb). Petrarch's *Invectives* (also available from I Tatti) and his *Life of Solitude* both argue against a gluttonous, material life; both betray the author's conflicted relationship to life's most superficial and gilded adornments. The true man is here revealed, naked and afraid.

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