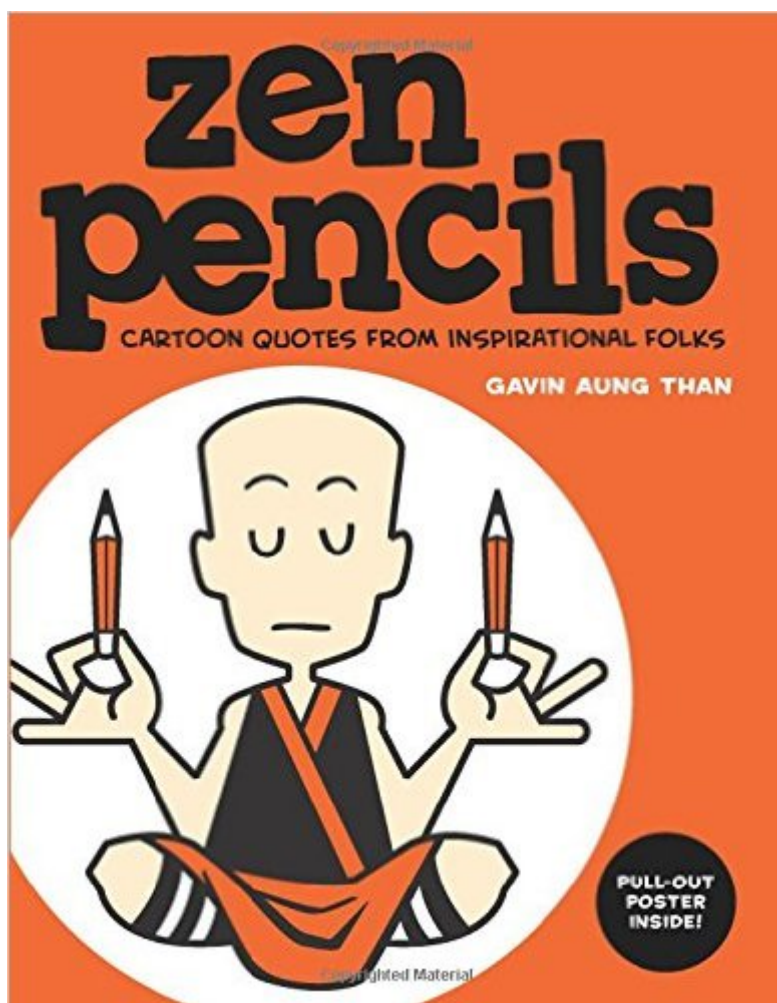


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Zen Pencils: Cartoon Quotes From Inspirational Folks



Synopsis

Zen Pencils is an exciting and unique new comic form that takes inspirational and famous quotations and adapts them into graphic stories. From icons like Confucius, Marie Curie, and Henry David Thoreau, to Presidents Theodore Roosevelt and Calvin Coolidge, to contemporary notables like Ira Glass, Neil deGrasse Tyson, and Neil Gaiman---their words are turned into sometimes heartwarming, sometimes sobering stories by cartoonist Gavin Aung Than. Be inspired, motivated, educated, and laugh as you read famous words as never before! Gavin Aung Than, an Australian graphic designer turned cartoonist, started the weekly Zen Pencils blog in February 2012. He describes his motivation for launching Zen Pencils: "I was working in the boring corporate graphic design industry for eight years before finally quitting at the end of 2011 to pursue my passion for illustration and cartooning. At my old job, when my boss wasn't looking, I would waste time reading Wikipedia pages, mainly biographies about people whose lives were a lot more interesting than mine. Their stories and quotes eventually inspired me to leave my job to focus on what I really wanted to do. The idea of taking these inspiring quotes, combining them with my love of drawing and sharing them with others led to the creation of Zen Pencils." "Zen Pencils deftly blends the inspired thoughts of our great creative and moral thinkers with its own fresh visual wit. Because these work as pithy history lessons illuminating timeless human truths, it's no wonder Gavin's engaging comics go viral!" "Michael Cavanaugh, Washington Post's Comic Riffs "Sometimes all it takes is a clear, original vision and a talented hand. Gavin Aung Than and his genius of Zen Pencils gives us that together, and so much more." -Chris Hadfield, retired astronaut and former Commander of the International Space Station "If you read this book and don't get a lump in your throat and a stirring in your heart at least once, check your pulse. You're dead." "Philip Plait, The Bad Astronomer "Gavin has the amazing ability to make words and ideas come alive. He teaches, inspires, and brings a whole new level of creativity to the quotes that hold a special place in our hearts." "Brené Brown, Ph.D., LMSW Author of the No. 1 New York Times Bestseller, Daring Greatly "Zen Pencils is a visual demonstration of joy and courage. Buy it for inspiration, and keep it for regular reminders of living bigger." "Chris Guillebeau, New York Times Bestselling Author of The \$100 Startup

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I'm a huge fan of Gav's work in Zen Pencils. In his cartoons, he starts with a motivational quote from a famous person, and then brings it to life, adding his own ideas of characters. I personally like the one with Chris Hadfield's "An Astronaut's Advice", but don't ask me to pick a favorite, there are too many favorites! Ithaka is another one that really resonated with me. The book is wonderfully printed, I was very happy and impressed with the quality, its printed on nice quality paper, very well done. First Class all the way! Wishing Gav all the success he deserves, and hope to see many more of his cartoons in the future! Go buy the book, you'll enjoy it! Buy extras, Christmas is coming!

The comics are gorgeous online, but there is something about holding them in your hands, turning each page, that brings these incredibly inspirational drawings to life. The book itself is printed in a way that reflects the quality of the art within. A perfect book to keep by you when you feel uninspired or as a gift to someone you know is giving it their all. I look forward to there eventually being a second one!

I've been following the Zen Pencils website for over a year now, so when I heard the book was coming out I didn't hesitate! With its full color pages and inspirational content, this book is perfect for all ages. Makes a great birthday or Christmas present! You won't regret it!

I had a great time going through this book. Creative and insightful, this book doesn't fail to make the reader consider things.

Gavin's selection of quotes, unique artwork, and wonderful community he has developed around

Zen Pencils is enjoyable and exciting. I look forward to receiving his monthly cartoons, insights, and comments from other readers. Now, I can experience his work in the palm of my hands. And let me tell you: it's even more impressive in person. The artwork jumps off the page, the book (and pages) have a tremendous weight to it (which denotes quality), and seeing his cast of characters in my home (as opposed to on my computer) is something special. Gavin's work through Zen Pencils has changed many lives for the better. Including mine. Order a copy and see if it changes yours, too.

This is more than a comic strip book, it motivates, moves and makes ya laugh out loud. My husband who is even a cynic of "motivational quotes" really liked it. I started following Gavin a few months ago and look forward to his weekly posts, but having his book in my hands to read was even better! Loved it! Makes a great gift!

I read his blog and grew to love his comics. The mesh of inspirational quotes and phrases and the comic imaginings of Than are incredible. Go read the site and then go buy the book. Make sure he keeps working!

Gavin's artwork is fun, thought provoking and a perfect accompaniment to some really insightful quotes. I have bought several of his posters for my 8th grade classroom and have added this beautiful book to our classroom library. Suited to all ages, this compilation is a joy to read! Cheers Gavin! Jenny Siviter

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