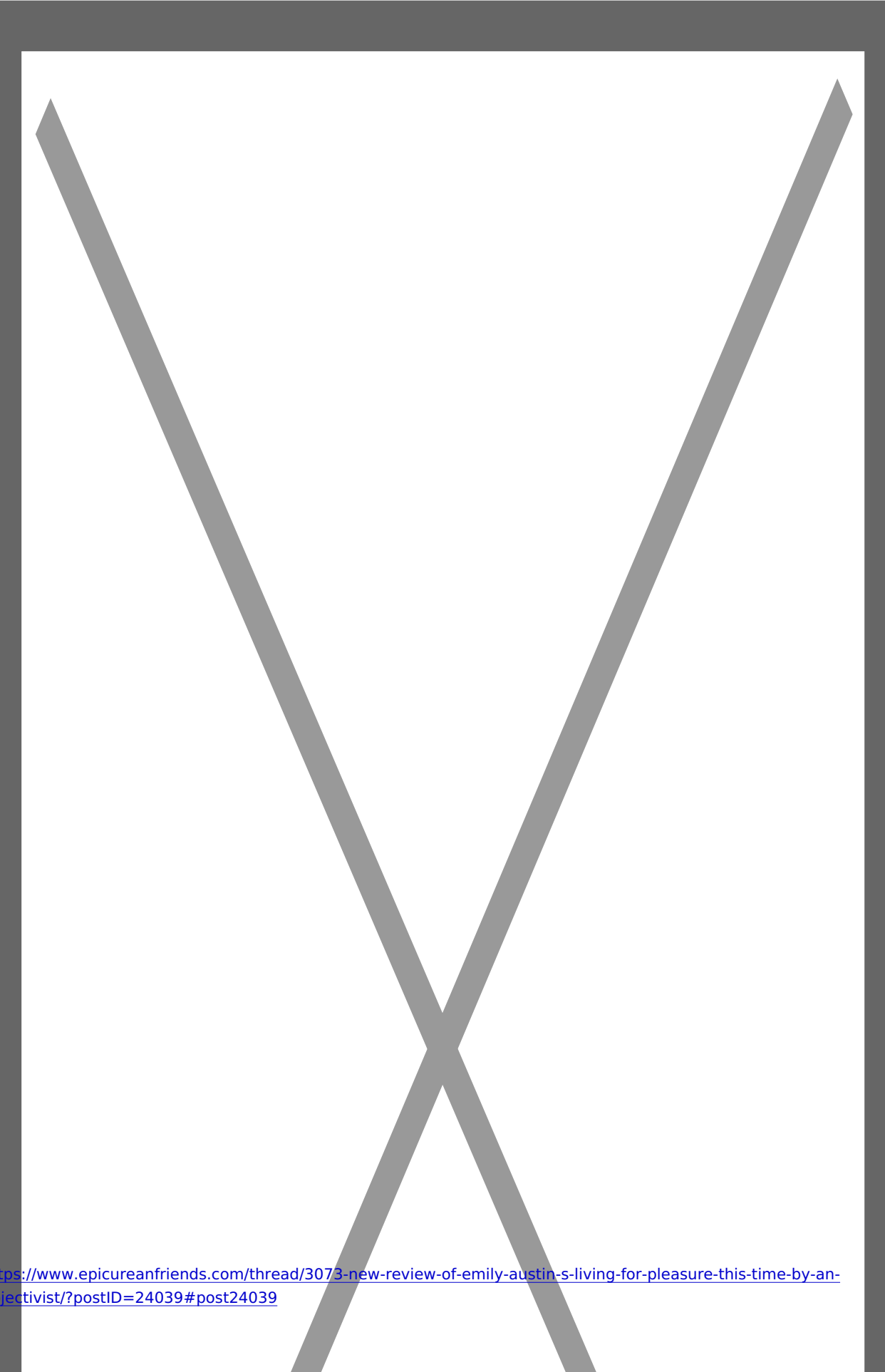


# **New Review of Emily Austin's "Living For Pleasure" - This Time By An Objectivist**

**Post by "Cassius" of May 18, 2023 at 7:20 PM**

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<https://www.epicureanfriends.com/thread/3073-new-review-of-emily-austin-s-living-for-pleasure-this-time-by-an-objectivist/?postID=24039#post24039>

[Living for Pleasure: An Epicurean Guide to Life by Emily A. Austin - The Objective Standard](#)

Living for Pleasure offers a thorough presentation of Epicurean morality in a readable, entertaining style.

theobjectivestandard.com

Living for Pleasure is a fun and much-needed introduction to the ideas of one of the world's greatest philosophers. Epicurus's teachings about reason, desire, and tranquility are as important now as they were twenty-three hundred years ago.

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I think most of us here will find this largely positive review to be something we can mostly agree with, while at the same time it will help us to dive further into the differences between Rand and Aristotle and Epicurus.

The reviewer wishes that LFP had gone further into these differences, which is a perspective I can share without calling it a criticism. The thing I like about LFP is that it goes as far as it does in presenting a positive view of Epicurus that active and healthy people can embrace. When the reviewer talks about JFK's speech on the reasons for going to the moon, he doesn't so much point out a flaw in the book or in Epicurus but in the current orthodox understanding that Epicurus would hesitate to go himself if he had the chance.

The main failure I would point out in turn as to the review is that the writer does not acknowledge that Rand placed "selfishness" and "reason" at the heart of her philosophy, rather than the feeling of pleasure and the rejection of logical rationalism. But to explore that would open too many wounds for most Objectivists, who have a long way to go before they begin to realize that their own sin of rationalism - which many of them admit - is built in to Rand's' neo-Stoic and neo-Platonic worship of "reason" rather than the feeling of pleasure as the ultimate standard of a proper way to live.

Rather than continue my own comments I'll just post the link and we can discuss further to the extent people are interested.