Ralph Waldo Emerson, Brooks Atkinson, Mary Oliver. Introduction by Mary Oliver Commentary by Henry James, Robert Frost, Matthew Arnold, Oliver Wendell Holmes, and Henry David Thoreau The definitive collection of Emerson’s major speeches, essays, and poetry, The Essential Writings of Ralph Waldo Emerson chronicles the life’s work of a true "American Scholar." As one of the architects of the transcendentalist movement, Emerson embraced a philosophy that championed the individual, emphasized independent thought, and prized "the splendid labyrinth of one's own perceptions." You can write a book review and share your experiences. Other readers will always be interested in your opinion of the books you’ve read. Get the best deal for Books Ralph Waldo Emerson from the largest online selection at eBay.com. | Browse our daily deals for even more savings! | Free shipping on many items! Love this book. I never read Ralph Waldo Emerson before. This book has turned me into a huge fan. Even though this was written in the late 1800s, it is even more relevant today! Ralph Waldo Emerson has a very unique way of writing and to be honest, I had to read the entire book again after I went through it the first time because his style is hard to adapt to. But the wisdom is excellent once you get it. Read more. Ralph Waldo Emerson was born on May 25, 1803, in Boston, Massachusetts. He was the son of William and Ruth (Haskins) Emerson; his father was a clergyman, as many of his male ancestors had been. He attended the Boston Latin School, followed by Harvard University (from which he graduated in 1821) and the Harvard School of Divinity. He was licensed as a minister in 1826 and ordained to the Unitarian church in 1829. Emerson married Ellen Tucker in 1829. When she died of tuberculosis in 1831, he was grief-stricken. Her death, added to his own recent crisis of faith, caused him to resign from the church. Read the best books by Ralph Waldo Emerson and check out reviews of books and quotes from the works Essays, Self-Reliance, Nature, Essays “First Series, Poems / Household Edition, Essays “Second Series” in 1803, Ralph Waldo Emerson was born in Boston. Educated at Harvard and the Cambridge Divinity School, he became a Unitarian minister in 1826 at the Second Church Unitarian. The congregation, with Christian overtones, issued communion, something Emerson refused to do. "Really, it is beyond my comprehension,” Emerson once said, when asked by a seminary professor whether he believed in God. (Quoted in 2,000 Years of Freethought edited by Jim Haught.) By 1832, after the untimely death of his first wife, Emerson cut loose from Unitarianism.