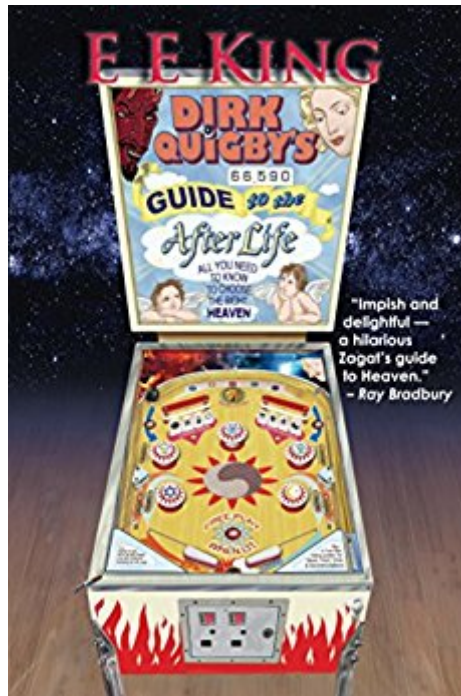


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Dirk Quigby's Guide To The Afterlife: All You Need To Know To Choose The Right Heaven



Synopsis

"Impish and delightful, a hilarious Zagat's guide to heaven!" Ray Bradbury
"A fantastical, profound, hilarious and rollicking good ride through the heavens and hells of the Afterlife! A wonderful book."
"Margaret Cho Boring Is Safe S. F. Weekly A mock ZAGAT Guide to the Lord's domain, Dirk Quigby's Guide to the Afterlife is a sly and satirical glimpse into what would happen if a Madison Avenue mad man gave heaven a PR makeover. As the book's framing narrative develops, the titular ad man finds that his succinct reviews of the world's religions (using a convenient ZAGAT-style rating scale) inflame believers of all faiths. It's a risk the real-life author is also taking. Considering her vocal support for scientific research and rational thought, and her role as an adviser for a number of science advocacy organizations, she probably doesn't mind a bit of religious controversy. All the better for us nonbelieving heathens: As King demonstrates, the devil also has the best jokes The New York Journal of Books. "This is the most delightful book this reviewer has read in a while.... King does a masterful job at mixing short vignettes of Dirk's experience with the Devil, his travels to the many heavens, his newly discovered lover, and the factual descriptions of the final paradise of each faith. The Guide to the Afterlife is a mixture of fact and fiction, faith and mysticism at its best." The Midwest Review of Books
Dirk Quigby's Guide to the Afterlife, E. E. King Shopping around for where you spend eternity can prove quite overwhelming. "Dirk Quigby's Guide to the Afterlife: All You Need to Know to Choose the Right Heaven" is a humorous analysis of the world's religions with a focus on the afterlife. Tying the analysis together with a quirky and offbeat novel, the laughs roll together well with plenty of substance. "Dirk Quigby's Guide to the Afterlife" is excellently composed and a read that is fun and very hard to set down.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Reviewed by David Rosman. Dirk Quigby's Guide to the Afterlife: All You Need to Know to Choose the Right Heaven by E. E. King (Exterminating Angel Press, October 1, 2010) You know something's up when the publisher has a name like "Exterminating Angel," and the book's dedication page says the author "intends no disrespect. . . . On the other hand, [the book] intends no respect either." And then there's the complete subtitle: All You Need to Know to Choose the Right Heaven Plus a Five-Star Rating System for Music, Food, Drink and Accommodations. Caution: Read only if you have a sense of humor. Our hero, Dirk Quigby, is a man trapped in the infamous cubicle of life. His dream of becoming a travel writer is on a seemingly permanent hold, as he is stuck as a copywriter in a small ad agency, with an impossible boss and the mandatory attractive, yet not too attractive, co-worker. Seeing an opportunity, Lucifer, the handsome little devil, contacts Dirk to offer him his dream job. It seems that Hell has become overcrowded, and God's favorite really wants more people to go to Heaven. The problem is that it seems that there are so many heavens from which to choose. Dirk's assignment is to write the ultimate travel guide: a guide to the afterlife. Lots of writing, lots of travel, and no strings attached. Kind of. E. E. King does a masterful job at mixing short vignettes of Dirk's experience with the Devil, his travels to the many heavens, his newly discovered lover, and the factual descriptions of the final paradise of each faith. From the Egyptians and Greeks to the Moonies, the Nation of Islam and Hare Krishna, there is no player that is immune to the Guide to the Afterlife. By the way, because the Egyptian and Greek religions are "dead," their heavens are now closed.

Prepare to be offended by at least one chapter, but whenever this book doesn't have you scowling at it, you'll be grinning at its sarcastic humor and nodding at its tidbits of wisdom. Reading this book, I laughed out loud several times. For me, that's significant, as I usually just smile when I encounter something amusing in a book. I certainly enjoyed it, but a few imperfections (and a little more sex than I thought was necessary) made it hard for me to think of this as a five-star reading experience. Don't pick up this book expecting it to be nothing but reviews of various theologies' expectations of the afterlife. There is an overarching plot that takes readers on a cynical tour of Dirk

Quigby's strange experiences. I liked this. The heavenly reviews were certainly not impartial, and reading them was much easier knowing the personality of the character writing them. About halfway through the book, I noticed that every religion was portrayed as a peculiar combination of strange (and often contradictory) concepts which could only be believed and followed by the gullible, stupid, or crazy people of the world. This would have bothered me if not for the fact that Dirk seems to think that way about nearly everything he encounters. I must admit that I enjoyed the reviews more than the story. Those on the Protestant and Islamic afterlives struck me as particularly entertaining. Not a single one was boring, and each offered clear information with vivid imagery. King claims that each afterlife review (and each accompanying religious explanation) was based on fact. However, having found some minor inaccuracies in the review of my own religion's afterlife, I have to wonder if any of the others were slightly off as well.

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