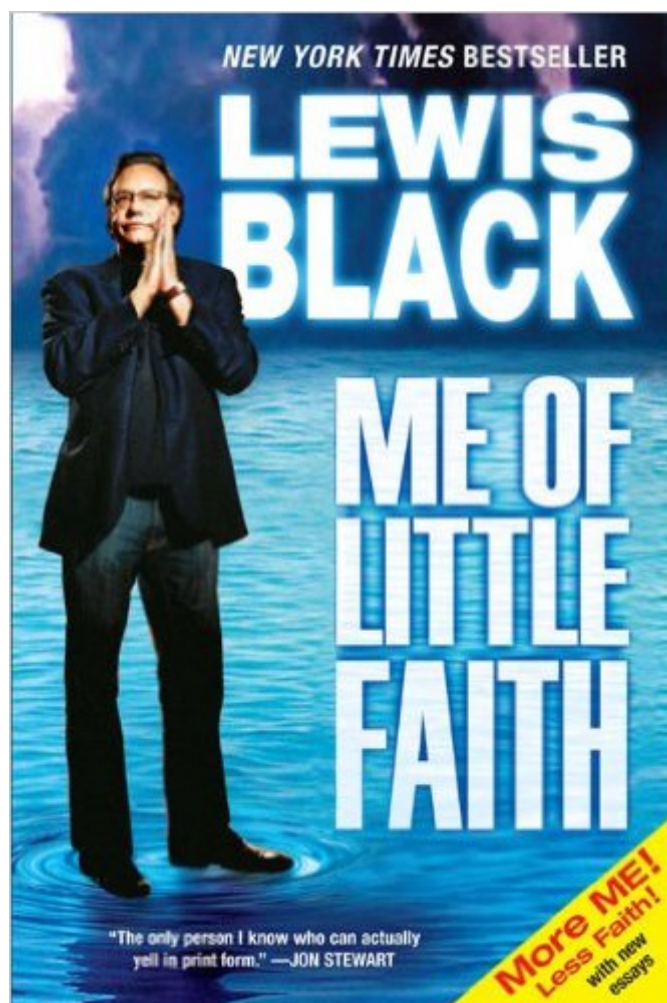


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Me Of Little Faith: More Me! Less Faith!



Synopsis

What do we believe? And for God's sake why? These are the thorny questions that Lewis Black, the bitingly funny comedian, social critic, and bestselling author, tackles in his new book, *Me of Little Faith*. And he's come up with some answers. Or at least his answers. In more than two dozen essays that investigate everything from the differences between how Christians and Jews celebrate their holidays, to the politics of faith, to people's individual search for transcendence, Black explores his unique odyssey through religion and belief. Growing up as a nonpracticing Jewish kid near Washington, D.C., during the 1950s, Black survived Hebrew school and a bar mitzvah (barely), went to college in the South during the tumultuous 1960s, and witnessed firsthand the unsettling parallels between religious rapture and drug-induced visions (even if none of his friends did). He explored the self-actualization movements of the 1970s (and the self-indulgence that they produced), and since then has turned an increasingly skeptical eye toward the politicians and televangelists who don the cloak of religious rectitude to mask their own moral hypocrisy. What he learned along the way about the inconsistencies and peculiarities of religion infuriated Black, and in *Me of Little Faith* he gives full vent to his comedic rage. Black explores how the rules and constraints of religion have affected his life and the lives of us all. Hilarious experiences with rabbis, Mormons, gurus, psychics, and even the joy of a perfect round of golf give Black the chance to expound upon what we believe and why "in the language of a shock jock and with the heart of an iconoclast." To put it as simply as I can," Black writes, "this is a book about my relationship with religion, where my dare I say it? spiritual journey has taken me...what it's meant and not meant to me, and why it makes me laugh." By the end of *Me of Little Faith*, you'll be a convert.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is an hilarious set of essays documenting one man's effort to understand his own spirituality as well as that which has been (and continues to be) thrust upon him by his semi-Jewish upbringing and many well-meaning friends. Honestly, I was in tears with laughter as he suggested those of us who gather annually to fight over Christmas dinner should keep our voices down lest we wake the baby Jesus. (I don't recall inviting Lewis Black to my family's Christmas dinner, but I could swear he'd given a fairly accurate account in this book!) The zealots of religion (i.e., those who feel they need to step in and defend God) need to turn away from this book immediately. If you can't laugh at yourself and your human foibles -- especially with regard to how you practice your faith -- you won't find this book funny at all. The rest of us -- those of us who know we are human, frail, and utterly laughable at times in the eyes of God as well as those around us -- are ready converts to Black's satire of the human spiritual condition. OK, I could have done without the reprint of the play toward the end of the book. Some comedy just doesn't come across when you read it on the page because you need the voices and the visual nonverbals to make it work. I expect it would be hilarious if I could actually see it (note to publishers: Next time just give us a DVD or a URL, OK?), but it doesn't do well when read. But that's the only little sour note in this collection. It's funny, it's touching, and it's the best set of observations on faith in the US I've ever had the pleasure of reading.

I got an autographed copy of the book from Lewis Black @ Bookends this week and purchased it with some trepidation, you know, the subject, Religion. I bought it based on Lewis himself being funny. Well if you're fed up with the religious Right or the Religious Left for that matter, you'll get it. (The people in Starbucks were looking at me because I could not stop chuckling page after page.) Subjects include: Religion & death, religion & 72 virgins ("Which would be impossible, I think, as I haven't met one on earth."), Jews & his Chanukah transformation, Mormons & religious Glasses, the call from Norman Lear, Oral Roberts & the tent, et al, and much more are up for Lewis's scrutiny. As long as you have seen him in concert and can hear his voice speaking as you read, well you can't stop laughing. You might need some understating of different religions, which enabled the joke to go over better. Warning: If you are deeply religious, you probably shouldn't buy this book. However, for the rest of us non-church going people Lewis has hit another home run. Happy Reading!

While early parts of the book do incorporate some of his standup routines (Which he admits), the majority of the book is original content, part biographical. Some of the things he refers to could

make it a little more difficult to get if you haven't read/listened to Nothing's Sacred. The best part of this book is that the audiobook is still performed by him, as was Nothing's Sacred. If you're a fan of Lewis Black, or if you're skeptical about all forms of religion, or wondering why we believe why we do, this is a great read. Bless you Lewis Black, in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Joke.

Though George Carlin imo was, is and always will be the King of stand up comedy, Lewis Black is a VERY close contender. I'm not a fan of religious bashing, as I have a live and let live mentality. But this book H.A.D.-M.E.-R.O.L.L.I.N.G.!! Black is unapologetically brutal, but he's also honest in the fact that he believes in "something", but cannot "pinpoint it". I think my favorite chapter of all pertained to 'The Rapture'. Like him or loathe him, the man knows how to shake up a crowd. Imo, Black was given a purpose on this earth to lead people to THINK with an open mind, while howling with laughter. Hardcore Christians and ye of little humor beware. No, Black is NOT the last word & testament on the "truth" re: religion, but then again...until God himself shows up for a personal autographing session, neither is the bible.

Lewis Black is an honest, angry man. But, he is also very funny and gets his point across through the use of comedy. This current book, "Me of Little Faith," is autobiographical in content and, as usual, politically sarcastic -- right on the mark, especially if you are a person who can't stand the political abuse of the citizens of this country. Lewis Black is a man of and for the people. He is enormously talented in so many ways about which he rarely speaks.

Given how little Lewis Black has talked about his feeling on religion (beyond a few basics like "It sucks being Jewish at Christmas") this is a surprisingly insightful look at one bitter man's spiritual journey. That's not to say it's not packed with his trademark humor, because it is. But like his earlier book it's also intimate and even touching at times.

Rare to be able to read three books by one author, closely together, and not become highly irritated with their "voice." Lewis Black, meets that definition of "Great" too. Well constructed, well organized, hilarious (of course), but tender and sweet as well. Lewis Black, a Master of Perspective."

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