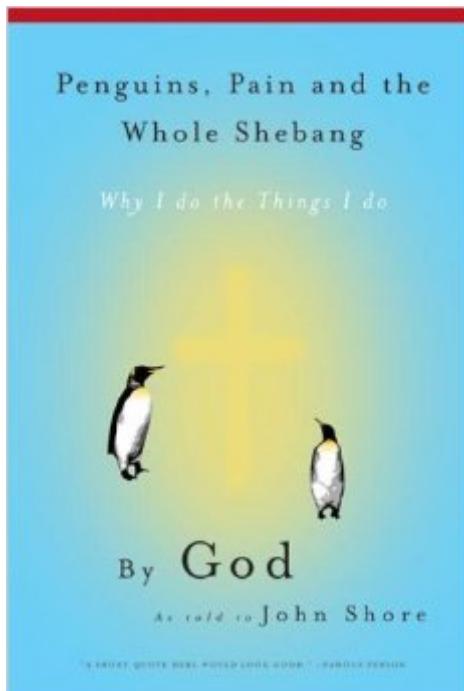


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Penguins, Pain And The Whole Shebang: By God As Told To John Shore



Synopsis

One year after his sudden and utterly out-of-the-blue conversion to Christianity (which he describes in the riveting afterword of this book), John Shore reportedly found himself overwhelmed by the desire to write something that Christians could give to non-Christians by way of proving that just because one is Christian doesn't automatically mean that one is irrational. The result is the delightfully profound "Penguins, Pain and the Whole Shebang: Why I Do the Things I Do," by God (as told to John Shore), in which God (who, it turns out, is excruciatingly funny: who knew?) directly answers the dozen objections to Christianity most typically raised by non-Christians. The book's opening dialogue between God and the archangel Michael on the eve before God introduces Adam onto planet earth is worth the price alone. There is no finer, accessible, or creative Christian apologetic. This is the book for which Mr. Shore is most likely to be remembered.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book did indeed look good -- so good that I bought it, along with "I'm OK - You're Not" by the same author. I've now finished most of it... up to the last chapter -- which I don't think I'm going to bother reading. It's an excellent literary idea -- write from the view of God "using" the human author to write it... engaging and creative concept. Now, I'm ALL about irreverent humor, however, I got the uncomfortable feeling that the author was trying too hard to be hip, or shocking, or to somehow sneak past the defenses of "seekers" or even atheists, as if they wouldn't notice, to land a punch. Sure, there were plenty of times I guffawed. At times, I rolled my eyes. At other times, I groaned. And, there were times I cringed. Such as having "God" make an Austin Powers joke about

how He mimicked Austin Powers for a while, and the angels tried to sing praise songs using the word "shagalicious". Such as God saying, "you can do any Me-damned thing you want." Such as God saying (in talking about the crucifixion): "It was a Friday. I really didn't have all that much to do but hang around anyway. For three days. I was just killing time. Oh, don't I just slay you? Cuz I sure do me. "">Read more â º

I have enjoyed the distinct pleasure of growing to know John Shore within the past few months. I have found him to be astutely insightful, wickedly funny and fearlessly true to his understandings of grace through Christ. As such, I have been awaiting the opportunity to clear some books off of my "to read" list so that I could fully enjoy "Penguins, Pain and the Whole Shebang", expecting it to be filled with John's uniquely wry and humorous insights into the nature of God; and our relationship with God. I was not disappointed. The book is simply stated, a riot. I found myself laughing out loud at several points throughout. I will not spoil a readers' joy by offering too many details, but; the premise of the book is that God took control of John's body so that He could present his side of the story; largely in response to those atheists and agnostics who (with often compelling arguments) do not believe that God exists. As such; the book seems largely intended as a sort of apologetic for God's existence. The surprise is that God has a wicked sense of humor (penguin, anyone?) What I was not expecting though was just how substantial the book is. Many times while reading, I found myself highlighting, dog-earing pages saying "ouch" in response the strong criticism of some of the church's more exclusionary and less gracious actions. There is strong polemic here, have no doubt. And the prophetic tone does not stop at the institutional church, either; but often finds purchase within the individual heart as well. The genius of this work is that it is filled with such moments; and yet that prophetic voice is soon followed by humor. But rather than it seeming to present God as having some serious bipolar mood swings; the work as a whole presents an image of God as love.

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