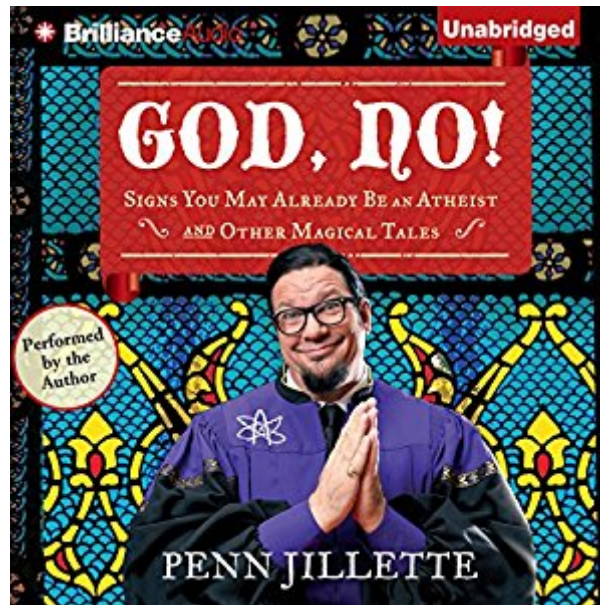


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God, No!: Signs You May Already Be An Atheist And Other Magical Tales



Synopsis

From the larger, louder half of the world-famous magic duo Penn & Teller comes a scathingly funny reinterpretation of The Ten Commandments. They are The Penn Commandments, and they reveal one outrageous and opinionated atheist's experience in the world. In this rollicking yet honest account of a godless existence, Penn takes readers on a roller coaster of exploration and flips conventional religious wisdom on its ear to reveal that doubt, skepticism, and wonder - all signs of a general feeling of disbelief - are to be celebrated and cherished, rather than suppressed. And he tells some pretty damn funny stories along the way. From performing blockbuster shows on the Vegas Strip to the adventures of fatherhood, from an ongoing dialogue with proselytizers of the Christian Right to the joys of sex while scuba diving, Jillette's self-created Decalogue invites his listeners on a journey of discovery that is equal parts wise and wisecracking.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Penn is no doubt a highly intelligent person, and he is an entertaining writer. As other reviewers have said, only part of the book is about atheism, the rest is self-admitted rambling on various topics from his life. Some of the stories work into the central theme better than others, and some I was left wondering what the point was in even mentioning them. Regardless, if you are a fan of theirs or their excellent Showtime series you will probably enjoy this book.

Penn's usual straight-forward and to the point delivery is there.....and then followed by a bunch

of hilarious and funny and surprisingly heartfelt stories that didn't have a whole lot to do with the original premise of the chapter. Or at least Penn failed to tie them in well enough to make the point most of the time. I'm an atheist and skeptic myself, and was really hoping for more substance and thought provoking words, and less stories.

First, a warning. If you are a frail lady librarian from the heartland, are of a certain age, or find strong language intolerable, you won't get past the Tourette's-like frequency of Jillette's &*&#%s. That being said, Penn Jillette has an eye for a humorous line, and it doesn't get much funnier than his thoughts on the power (or impotence) of religion. He takes on God (or as he consistently renders it, god) and church alike as a problem in today's society, and isn't shy about telling us why he feels neither has a place in our lives. Much of the book is anecdotal in the extreme: we learn why his mother wasn't religious, and what his children do for the holiday season that falls at the end of the calendar year. A supremely moving story about the death of his mother provides an insight into a secular ceremony to replace a funeral service. Another hilarious tale shows us the power of breaking religious food laws, as he and Teller introduce an ex-Jew to a bacon cheeseburger at a restaurant named "Traif". I enjoyed it thoroughly, mostly while "revering the porcelain god", but my simple testimony shouldn't sway you. Look inside, read a page or two and make up your own mind whether to buy in. After all, that's what Jillette is asking us to do with the various holy books we are heir to. Can I get an Amen?

My first book from Penn and grateful that it was my first! Very entertaining and full of hilarious stories from his career and life scattered with ideas and thoughts that I naturally shared and/or thought of myself! Well worth the price and a great addition to my library!

I am an atheist. I got this book because I thought it would help me to explain myself to the religious people in my life. While there are some very good points made about his take on religion, they are sometimes hard to find in the middle of his stories about his life. The stories are funny and enjoyable, but, not why I bought the book. I did get some good points and for that reason and the amusing stories I gave it the four stars.

"You don't have to be very smart, fast, or funny to be an atheist. You don't have to be well educated. Being an atheist is simply saying, 'I don't know'."--Loc 80
GOD NO! is god awful. Especially the first half, or so, where Jillette seems hell-bent to out 'Howard-Stern' Howard Stern with juvenile raunch. Way too much information. The second half is better--the 'Afterword' is very

much worth reading--but still there's far too much recourse to too vulgar imagery. Penn Jillette has long been an admired champion of individual liberty, with much to offer on the subject. Packaging his good ideas in sleaze, however, is distracting and cheapens the product. Recommendation: Read, instead, Dawkins, Hitchens, Harris, Shermer, Jacoby, Ali, Ingersoll, Mencken, Twain, Barnum, Hayek, Ringer, Randi, Rothbard, or Rand. Their writings may tend toward the less visceral--but at least you won't get your metaphorical face rubbed in metaphorical body fluids. (NB: If by chance you are, or think like, a hormonal fourteen year old boy, feel free to disregard this recommendation--but read those other folks, too.) "There's a world of safety in doubt. The respect for faith, the celebration of faith is dangerous."--Loc 3211 Kindle edition, 224 pages, 3229 Locs

I was disappointed in this. I've always been a fan of Penn Jillette, but it seems like he threw together a bunch of random thoughts and laced it with a lot of explicit sex talk in an effort to be hip.

I'm not going to lie, I love Penn Jillette. He's funny, free thinking, an out and proud atheist who isn't afraid to speak his mind. His stories are inevitably strange, funny and amazing. You wouldn't believe some of the things that he's done, said or seen happen. His way with a story is perfect, he can make anything funny (Including getting your genitalia burned in a hair dryer) and his tales are some of the more fun ones I've heard. The only problem to this book that I have personally is that it's not so much about religion, as it is Penn telling stories from his life and occasionally linking them up to a religious theme. Now I am absolutely fine with every single story Penn tells, he tells brilliant ones and by the end of the book you will have laughed at least once every single chapter without fail. He has a lot of insane stories that could only happen to a nut like himself, but with a book that is meant to be about religion (At least that's the implication) I did expect a little more god bashing and a little less Penn bashing. All in all though, it's a book you can enjoy no matter what your religious background, you don't need to be an atheist to enjoy this... it helps, but you don't need to. It's got a little something for everybody, and everybody can enjoy a little something from the book

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