



Godbody

Theodore Sturgeon

Download now

Read Online ➔

Godbody

Theodore Sturgeon

Godbody Theodore Sturgeon

Not since the publication of "Jonathon Livingston Seagull" and "Watership Down" has there been a book that will so move, captivate, and fill one with a sense of genuine love.

From "one of the greatest writers of science fiction and fantasy who ever lived" (Stephen King) here is a masterpiece of fiction - a haunting, meaningful and at times erotic novel that describes a wonderous transformation that takes place in an American town when a charismatic, Christ-like figure mysteriously appears in its midst.

Godbody - sweetly innocent, as naked of guile as he is of worldly trappings - has returned to remind mankind of what it has lost. He will touch only a few lives before his preordained end, but they will be forever transformed. As one by one the members of a small rural town fall under Godbody's spell, the burdens that had weighed down on them disappear, and a new vision of life as it can - and should - be suddenly reveals itself to them.

Godbody Details

Date : Published February 3rd 1987 by Signet (first published 1986)

ISBN : 9780451147028

Author : Theodore Sturgeon

Format : Paperback 205 pages

Genre : Science Fiction, Fiction, Fantasy, Religion, Classics, Science Fiction Fantasy, Spirituality, Speculative Fiction, Sexuality, Novels

 [Download Godbody ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Godbody ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online Godbody Theodore Sturgeon

From Reader Review Godbody for online ebook

Anita says

The story includes a figure who is Jesus-like in that he cares deeply and heals. The book contains equal amounts of various sexual activities and talk along the lines of morality, I guess you would call it. I found the story totally boring and the sexual scenes for the most part overdone.

I read the whole book, because it was fairly short and I wanted to see if there was anything at the end to make up for how awful I felt the book was. There was an attempt at the end, in the form of a sermon, to explain how the early church was and why it no longer was that way. I found this quite lacking.

The main reason I finished this book was so that I could say I read it and recommend that you do not bother reading it.

Sara Jane Blackman says

“Did you ever talk to someone who simply and totally listens? Do you know how rare that is? Haven’t you ever realized that nobody wants to listen except to get ready for the next thing they’re going to say, or to catch their breath, or to get ammunition from you for their next sentence?”

Profound.

This book is deceptively simple and its message of love is pretty clear. It didn't change my life, but its broken down gospel of "love one another" gets straight to the heart of this life's greatest test.

Chris says

This is probably one of the first books that really made me want to write -- to be able to connect with someone I'd never met in the way this book made me feel Sturgeon had connected to me.

Like all of Sturgeon's work, there is genius here; the characters shine and sparkle and come to life on the page, and it is filled to overflowing with the beauty and ugliness of who and how we are, us humans.

There is so much more I want to say about this book, but I can never capture how it touches me in the net of mere words. If you can find it, buy it -- if you don't like it, I'll buy it back, for whatever you paid for it. I can always use another copy, as I give it frequently to friends and loves and folks who matter in my life.

Bradley says

First off, this book is not for everybody. I will make the comparison to the film "Shortbus" in that both are extremely sexually explicit but in both cases sexuality is central to the story, and not gratuitous. "Godbody"

may offend some people who find it sacrilegious, though I would argue that it is actually the opposite. The book is also uniquely structured in multiple first-person perspective. Each chapter is narrated by a different character, each very distinct from the last. I give the book 5 stars for originality, creativity, craft, and re-readability.

Scott says

GODBODY is about how a messiah-like entity transforms a small, repressed town in the Katskills.

I remember reading this, or attempting to (I'm not sure I was able to finish), back when I was a teenager and it had first been published. I hated it, and then forgot about it for years. Then somehow I thought of it again, and I realized that I had been far too young to understand or appreciate the book. (I don't just mean the sex parts. Back then I wouldn't have recognized a Christ figure if you'd nailed him up in front of me. And just other life stuff.) So I thought, if I ever came across it again, I'd give it another try. This was partly because of Sturgeon's reputation as an author, and partly because I was curious to see how my perceptions had changed.

At first, I thought I was going to hate it still. At the beginning of the story, Reverend Dan Currier encounters Godbody in a field. He touches Dan, who returns home and makes sweet love to his wife like he's never done before. How nauseatingly domestic.

After the first couple chapters, though, it gets better. We're introduced to several other members of the community (except for the epilogue, the entire book is told in first-person): "Hobo" Wellen, the town rapist; Willa Mayhew, gossip columnist for the local paper and self-appointed morality police; poor, victimized Melissa Franck, and so on. We see how Godbody's presence changes even the worst of them.

It's still not a great book - there is a little too much casual mysticism for my taste - but at least I now understand what Sturgeon was trying to say. His message is a nice one, but it's so heavy-handed it's liable to take your head off if you're not careful.

Amy says

Please, don't compare this to Jonathan Livingston Seagull. It's more like a softcore mash up of the Jesus myth and Hair, but in Sturgeon's hands is beautiful, simple, skilled, compelling. Maybe a bit hokey at times, earnest. Overall, a quick potent read, quite worthwhile.

La Stamberg dei Lettori says

Gli scrittori di fantascienza sono un po' strani. Un po' tanto strani. Basterebbe dare una rapida occhiata alla variegata eredità, di romanzi inediti, postumi, interrotti, lasciata dai più noti autori sci-fi. Mi vien da pensare al mastodontico e problematico lascito di P.K. Dick, alla sua mistica trilogia di Valis e all'enigmatica Esegisi. Sì, lo so, non è proprio una prassi raccomandabile quella di iniziare una recensione a un romanzo parlando di un altro autore, ma il paragone tra Sturgeon e Dick si è affacciato nella mia mente sin dalla prima

pagina. Mistica e filosofia per Dick, e un romanzo eretico-erotico per Sturgeon. In entrambi i casi siamo davanti al topos della "seconda venuta", cioè quella di Cristo (o dell'Anticristo, se preferite il versante horror-apocalittico).

Sturgeon ce lo presenta immediatamente: evocato già nel titolo (Godbody, il corpo di Dio; che suona simile anche a Godboy, come ho sbagliato a leggere per almeno metà romanzo), è rapidamente introdotto all'esordio del romanzo dal primo personaggio. Un ragazzo dalla bellezza indescrivibile, dal fascino magnetico, che suscita perplessità ma anche contemplazione in chi lo osserva.

E' proprio il primo incontro tra il reverendo Currier (il primo dei personaggi a comparire sulla scena) e Godbody a scatenare la sequenza degli eventi; nello specifico, è il primo tocco, da Godbody al reverendo, che instilla in quest'ultimo la scintilla di una epifania che si allargherà a macchia d'olio coinvolgendo tutti gli altri personaggi, che, in un gioco di incastri, finiscono con l'interagire col reverendo

Continua su:

<http://www.lastambergadeilettori.com/...>

D.L. says

Unconventional science fiction. I liked the split narratives. I loved the message. Churches, religious costumes, archaic ritual and pedantic hair splitting of doctrine is total garbage. If you want to love god, do it. Don't let anyone come between you. Not even your clothes.

Tom LA says

Such a pity that many of Sturgeon's works are hidden behind these idiotic naked-pecs covers! He is one of the best writers who ever lived, period.

Metaphorosis says

3.5 stars - Metaphorosis Reviews

An assortment of indirectly linked residents of a small town interact with a mysterious stranger.

From what I've read of Theodore Sturgeon's work before, Robert Heinlein and Stephen Donaldson seemed unlikely choices for, respectively, the foreword and afterword. On dipping into the novel, however, it began to make sense. Sturgeon's Godbody is in some ways an amalgam of Heinlein's own two Smiths - Woodrow Wilson and Valentine Michael, and the focus on a 'free love makes everything better' theme fits nicely with Heinlein's late period wish fulfillment stories. Donaldson's is a more intellectual and reasoned commentary, but also more interesting.

I agree with Donaldson that Sturgeon's premise is weak. Essentially, the title character, Godbody, helps people realize their true selves by freeing them from sexual repression. That's not a spoiler - it happens to the first character, in the first chapter. Sturgeon writes unselfconsciously about sex, and he approaches it from a variety of angles. It's reasonably well done, but not particularly interesting. What works better is the

character studies that form the basis of the book's individual chapters. It's the fact that these characters grow that's interesting here, not how they do it.

Godbody himself is a mild cypher that comes clear without much surprise at the end. The most interesting thing about him is the very down-to-earth tone that Sturgeon has given this mystical central figure.

While the book has a strong defining theme, it lacks a clear plot, and the chapters follow each other in something of a jumble. The middle of the book slows considerably, in part because Sturgeon is so busy describing each character's attitudes toward sex that he forgets to move the story forward. The book does improve thereafter, with a satisfying, if simplistic ending.

Unlike the characters in the story, your life won't be changed by meeting Godbody, but you might spend a pleasant afternoon with him and his friends.

Ethan says

This book is basically porn. I remember my mother lent this book to me back in High School when I was looking for a book to read. I don't think she knew what it was, just knew the author. I gave it to my brother when I was done and then it was given back to my mother. I was always curious what she thought when she finally got around to reading it.

Charles Dee Mitchell says

The minister of a small congregation in a small New England town is driving home through the countryside when he notices a naked young man sitting by the side of the road. Every physical aspect of the young man is a shade of red, but not unpleasantly so. The colors blend together nicely, The idea of cinnamon comes to the minister's mind. He stops and asks the young man if he needs any help. The young man, unashamed and natural in his nakedness, approaches the minister's open passenger side window and asks, "Who are you?" The minister replies, "My name is Currier." The young man places his hand for a moment between Currier's neck and shirt collar then replies, "Yes, you are." When asked for his own name, the young man replies, "Godbody." He turns down a ride, and Rev. Currier goes home, carries his wife into the bedroom, and they have the best sex either has ever experienced.

So begins Theodore Sturgeon's final novel, published posthumously in 1986. (Sturgeon died in 1985 from lung fibrosis, possibly contracted by working around asbestos in the merchant marines.) Robert Heinlein wrote an introduction for the novel's initial publication, both as memorial to his friend and to get a jump start on what he expected would be a protest against the book's graphic sexual passages and profane language. You would think that sexual barriers would be pretty well broken down by 1986. John Updike wrote *Couples* and Philip Roth wrote *Portnoy's Complaint* in 1969. Erica Jong's *Fear of Flying* came out in 1973. From its pulp beginnings, SF had been a hotbed of repressed, adolescent male sexual fantasy, but there is a frankness to Sturgeon's book unlike anything I have ever encountered in SF from that period. The sex is graphic and varied, including deeply felt encounters, violent attacks, and the comically grotesque.

The book concerns the effect Godbody has on a half dozen or so characters during a single autumn day in

the New England town. Sturgeon tells each chapter in a different voice, ranging from Currier's to that of the town's gossip columnist, and including that of the town's resident sexual predator among others. Sturgeon liked this sort of experimental approach to his narratives, and he pulls it off better here than in any of his books I have read other than the very early *More Than Human*. The plot itself takes fairly predictable turns, but the storytelling is topnotch. *Godbody* is both a peculiar cultural artifact and an entertaining evening's read.

Denis says

Heinlein's Introduction to Sturgeon's swan song "novel" *Godbody* helped brace me to for this one, for one can easily misjudge this based on one's assumptions rather than the author's intent.

Written in Sturgeon's sensitive and elegant fashion -the style is a precursor of that of Ursula Le Guin's than of his golden age contemporaries Heinlein, Asimov, Williamson or van Vogt- and though more sexually explicit than necessary, it tells the tale of a perceived messiah in the guise of a simple and mysterious open-minded traveler who comes upon a troubled small New England town -Stephen King's territory-. There he helps its inhabitants -in interesting ways to say the least- to better understand themselves and the love they have within themselves, better than ever before.

Based on the little I've read so far of Theodore Sturgeon's work, he is more at home with the short story form -a situation or expanded idea- rather than the novel. Even his wonderful and classic "More Than Human" is actually a fix-up consisting of earlier shorter works. *Godbody* reads more like a novella.

Philosophically, the story is a kin to Heinlein's "Stranger in a Strange Land."

Janet says

This startling book is about what happens when one instance of the Second Coming (*Godbody* makes it clear that he does this on a regular basis, without public fanfare) consists primarily of the message "love one another" and the re-institution of Agape Feasts, with the healing of sexual wounds as a necessary first step before the rest can take place. It is not science fiction. If you don't believe in the Divine, you could categorize it as Magical Realism. I consider it a Christian myth about sacred sexuality.

Some people don't like the explicitness, but to me it seemed necessary because each person's relationship with sex and their past experiences with it, including their wounds and/or shame, were key to understanding their current situation. And the differences between the startlingly powerful, intimate and joyous sex first experienced by the Curriers sets up the contrast not only to their own past but to the situations of others.

One could accuse Sturgeon of oversimplifying life by portraying a community in which everything comes back to sex, but if you think of this book as a myth rather than a novel it makes it easier to accept. And let's face it: a lot of people's issues are rooted in sex, especially sexual wounds, shame, fear, and loneliness.

The other aspect is that of *Godbody*'s utter compassion and acceptance. It doesn't matter what anyone has

done in the past. Godbody accepts them utterly, loves them, wants them to be whole and healthy, but doesn't force anything on them. As another reviewer noted below, just being listened to with complete focus and acceptance is healing in itself.

"Godbody" is not about is free love, despite what some other reviewers have said. Godbody the character does not encourage or prompt people to have sex with everyone and anyone. In fact, some people might label him conservative, since it's fairly clear that all the sex takes place between couples who apparently are going to remain focused on each other. (The one exception is a single woman who makes love with Godbody but does not start trying to seduce the other men later.) Instead, what is portrayed is an Edenic, innocent intimacy, where characters are naked, but without stirring inappropriate lust in others, and married/committed couples become happier in their monogamy.

Do I recommend this book? Absolutely! But it needs to be approached with an open mind and a certain level of spiritual and sexual maturity if you're going to fully appreciate it.

Chadwick says

The most beautiful account of the second coming that I have ever come across. Sturgeon had a hard time getting the novel right, but in this, his last, he hit it on all cylinders. As life affirming and full of painful, bleeding love for humanity as the rest of his works, this will leave you with a lump in your throat and a glow in your heart.
