



Every Day Is an Atheist Holiday!: More Magical Tales from the Bestselling Author of God, No!

Penn Jillette

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“Penn Jillette is a twenty-first-century Lord of Misrule: big, boisterously anarchic, funny, Rabelaisian, impossible—and unique. There isn’t—couldn’t be—better not be—anybody like him.”—Richard Dawkins

Nobody has more fun than atheists. Don’t believe it? Well, consider this: For nonbelievers, every day you’re alive is a day to celebrate! And no one celebrates life like Penn Jillette, the larger, louder half of legendary magic duo Penn & Teller. Whether he’s contemplating the possibility of life after death, deconstructing Christmas carols, or calling Donald Trump’s bullsh*t, Jillette’s spectacularly witty and sharply observant essays in *Every Day is an Atheist Holiday!* will entertain zealots and skeptics alike. And as ever, underneath his rollicking rants lie a deeply personal philosophy and generous spirit which find peace in the simple beauty of the every day. *Every Day Is an Atheist Holiday!* is a thoughtful—yet hysterical—affirmation of life’s magic from one of the most distinctly perceptive and provocative humorists writing today. Like Peter Boghossian’s *A Manual for Creating Atheists*, Jillette’s book not only shines with comedic witticism, it instructs and educates.

Every Day Is an Atheist Holiday!: More Magical Tales from the Bestselling Author of God, No! Details

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From Reader Review Every Day Is an Atheist Holiday!: More Magical Tales from the Bestselling Author of God, No! for online ebook

Jeff Raymond says

Penn Jillette, after how successful *God, No!* was, gets a second book, this time with the conceit of using holidays as a backdrop for his stories and advocacy.

If you know Penn Jillette, you know what you're getting - unfiltered opinion, some humor, some heart, and some pretty crazy stories. This book, of course, is no different. He runs the gamut from bizarre early adulthood stories to a few pieces on his *Celebrity Apprentice* experiences, touches plenty on both the business of magic and atheism, and pretty much succeeds in making a really readable, quick book.

No curveballs here: if you're like me and could probably spend hours listening to Penn talk about anything at all, this book is worth picking up.

Greg says

Penn Jillette comes off as loud and arrogant when he speaks, but his books show how humble and self-deprecating he is. I love his logic, and he is the best at summing up an idea in a beautiful phrase or short story. He can explain atheism better than Christopher Hitchens or Richard Dawkins. And he can explain it in such a beautiful way that it will have you crying with joy.

The book is mostly Jillette recalling his life in a series of short stories. They have nothing to do with atheism, but he has had a fascinating life, and his humbleness is very endearing. However, the book is framed by his arguments for atheism and against religion, and I find them very uplifting.

The language is crude, and Jillette can be extremely vulgar, but I would recommend this book to anyone for a different point of view.

Lori says

Penn Jillette is very smart, a very good storyteller, very irreverent and very funny.
I don't know why I don't read more of him, or watch more of him or have more of him in my life.

The chapter on the Shaft theme alone made me laugh out loud in an empty library and a crowded Subway shop within an hour of each other.

Now I'm wishing I would have went and saw his show in Las Vegas.

What a schmuck I am! (you'd get that if you read the book)

Allen Adams says

<http://www.themainedge.com/buzz/embr...>

Following the titular conceit, “Every Day is an Atheist Holiday” features chapters named for holidays...but not the ones you might think. Sure some classics such as Thanksgiving and the Fourth of July make appearances, but other chapters are headed by things like Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Groundhog Day and April Fool’s Day. Jillette uses (occasionally tenuous) connective tissue through threads to wed these holidays to anecdotes from his own life – anecdotes that are heartfelt and funny and almost always permeated with an underlying crassness.

But beneath the bloviating and bluster, you might be shocked to find a man with strong moral character and a true appreciation for how lucky he is. There isn’t an ounce of pretension about the man; he’s simply telling it like it is. He likes Richard Dawkins and hates Donald Trump. He is committed to his craft, yet doesn’t even know how some of Teller’s tricks work. He really loves his kids, despite naming them Moxie Crimefighter and Zolten respectively.

And lest we forget, these stories are almost uniformly hilarious. Whether he’s pranking the head honcho of Bell Labs or getting lectured by Clay Aiken on “The Celebrity Apprentice,” Jillette’s skewed sense of humor and unique worldview unfailingly shine through.

j_ay says

I may have been a little harder on Penn's first collection of essays if I'd known better. With the title of _god, No_ and the subtitle, I thought he was mostly focusing atheism. But now with a follow-up book it seems clear that Penn is just writing random essays (maybe blog posts) and peppering in atheism.

Penn is wildly entertaining, although I highly disagree with him that Johnny Carson was ever funny, Lou Reed is any kind of credible musician and, more importantly, Martin Luther King was 'holding back on the god stuff', when Penn himself lists that "god" is mentioned 5 times. That's 5 times too many.

Most satisfying is Penn's newer thoughts on the US/being American. When I saw clips of the 'Flag Burning' skit I was disappointed that they (P&T) too jumped on the "patriotic" band wagon. So it was nice to read the skit was conceived before "911" and even shelved (for awhile) in the aftermath of it. But the word Penn is lacking here is Nationalism. That is what most Americans have. Not "patriotism". All the more scary, is they no one can differentiate.

There were also a few repetitions ('stairway to heaven', 'geologists being killed', etc) a good editor (oxymoron?) should have picked up on...

Tim says

I enjoyed this personal biography narrated by Penn Jillette of Penn & Teller fame. While it's not for everyone, it is for me. 8 of 10 stars

Robert says

Penn is an insightful dude. Great story about the EPCOT brick!

David Robins says

A look into Penn's life and art; some great stories. In one about being in The Celebrity Apprentice, where he got his friends in Blue Man Group to come along and bring money in an unconventional manner (in a balloon), and Clay Aiken was being a git to him as usual, I remember trying to remember if Penn's group won that challenge or not. But it was a silly question. Either way, Penn won - he was able to delight in his friends' art; Trump's games and approval meant nothing to him. He is, quite simply, a class act. He is unstinting with his praise for works well done and for talent, especially in his partner, Teller (who I learned was a tenured classics teacher). He tells about a case where they were dealing with producers of some show (X-files?) and one of the producers claimed Teller was always quiet because Penn bullied him. Teller tore the guy a new one. As Penn put it, "Don't assume anything that Teller does isn't his own choice." "Teller spoke. Oh my glory, did Teller speak." Penn's family and his art are important to him, and it shows through the book and each will make a mark.

Warning to those that might consider reading it to their children: he's very free with the four-letter words and adult imagery. You've been warned.

Nikki Boisture says

I'm sitting here wondering if I'm really giving a book by Penn Jillette five stars. And the answer is, yes I most definitely am. I can hardly believe it myself. My expectations for this book were low. Even though I'm an atheist like Jillette, I sometimes find him annoying and abrasive on his show Penn and Teller's Bullshit!

But I defy any person of any religion to open their religious books and find any that contain as much joy, love, and appreciation for life that Jillette shows in this book.

And maybe I'm just feeling sentimental because my mother died less than a month ago, and Jillette writes so openly and honestly about his feelings for his parents and his children. Sentiment or no, Jillette's views on parenthood often had me in tears, and his sentiments on having been on Celebrity Apprentice had me laughing. Laughing and crying in one book? Five stars with no regrets.

Richard Cosgrove says

Every Day Is An Atheist Holiday by Penn Jillette

Give or take a year or two, it's been a quarter of a century since I first came across a television show featuring a pair of magicians who stopped me in my metaphorical tracks by performing a series of jaw

dropping tricks, then showing the audience exactly how they were done, and then doing them again, but in such a way that even having been shown the old man behind the curtain I still sat there, slack mouthed, exclaiming "How do they do that?"

A large part of what attracted me to Penn & Teller was the larger part of the duo, Penn Jillette, whose self-deprecating monologues held audiences captivated while he did all manner of terrible but eminently watchable things to his smaller, silent partner, Teller (some of which, as he reveals, were too rich for the likes of The Tonight Show).

Over the subsequent years I've enjoyed watching Penn & Teller perform their hugely entertaining magic, and Jillette perform as himself (or the version of himself that he is when the cameras are rolling) on chat shows and the like, but I'd never read anything by him, not even one of his many columns, until I got hold of an advance copy of his new book, Every Day Is An Atheist Holiday.

As the title suggests, and following on from his previous book God, No! Jillette is an atheist (as is Teller as it happens), and a proud one at that, but while there was a part of me that was worried I was about to be hit over the head by a Dawkins-esque mantra, I was pleasantly surprised to find that while his atheism is an ever present part of his writing, it's never overtly in your face, and when he does discuss it directly it's in a calm and rational way. There's no attempt to bludgeon you into submission, but rather Jillette is happy to proclaim his belief (or lack of it, to be pedantic) and respect whatever point of view anybody else may have.

As interesting as Jillette's musings on atheism are, though, where Every Day Is An Atheist Holiday really shines is when he talks about his experience on the American version of Celebrity Apprentice (turns out he's no great fan of Donald Trump, but he does have a respect for him) and Dancing With The Stars, pulling aside the curtains on these shows as deftly as he does his illusions, and in the many tales drawn from the long and illustrious career that he and his best friend and partner Teller have shared over the last three decades.

From wince inducing yarns about bloodied testicles, to the time they played an elaborate practical joke on a Nobel Peace Prize winner (and had the favour returned), to insights into the early days of Penn & Teller, Every Day Is An Atheist Holiday is both funny and at times moving but never less than entertaining. Quite simply, it's magic!

Christine says

This review comes from a friend who read this book, but doesn't have his own Goodreads account, so I offered to put it up for him.

With his tell-it-like-it-is style many people will find Penn Jillette's newest book "Every Day Is An Atheist Holiday: More Magical Tales" to be a seamless sequel to his previous book "God, No! Signs You May Already Be An Atheist And Other Magical Tales." Once again Penn lays his personal stories out in the open with no shame to whom may care. I like this style as it lends the reader the ability to connect with Penn on a personal level. While much of the book is centered around an Atheist dealing with holidays and other religious babble, many of the stories are just humorous side thoughts unrelated to holidays, but just as entertaining as any other story Penn may tell. In the end, reading this book is like sitting around with friends listening to past experiences and it would seem that none can top the outrageous events that have occurred in Penn's life.

I give this book 2 thumbs way up... But I am, of course, a very biased Penn Jillette fan.

Mary Frances says

Ok, I admit Penn Jillette is not for everyone. In fact, he may be writing for only a narrow swath of the reading public. But his books are genuinely funny, if you can tolerate the language and are not offended by someone who not only does not believe what you believe, but who expresses those beliefs in outrageous language. Yet...under the profane language, sexual references, etc., this is a man who, while deeply odd, is loving, loyal and kind. And that come through when he talks about his wife and children, about Teller, about his friends and even about the people who annoy him almost beyond tolerance. I DO NOT recommend this book for anyone who has difficulty with raw language or with challenges to a beloved belief system. I myself don't believe what Penn does, but I love the self-deprecating humor, the willingness to puncture the over-inflated, and the genuinely nice man who clearly resides inside the over-the-top giant magician/showman. I'd probably be driven crazy by his quirks, but I like to think that if I could overcome my reservations about his style, Penn and I could be great friends. My guess is male readers can handle this book much better than most women, and it's a bit raw even for me (and I have a fairly high tolerance), but I still laughed out loud often while reading it.

Jessica Fure says

Before I get burned for this, I need to say two things:

- 1) I am a near-militant agnostic.
- 2) I really love(d) Jillette's fiction and stage act. I'm not sure what the new ones are like, hence the qualifier there.

So, why did I give it one star? Simply put, as it says, I "didn't like it." Is it an intrinsically bad book? No. But I didn't like it.

There are a few reasons, but the two most important - and confusingly contradictory - are that it's too much like his old stuff and not enough like the older work.

It's a lot like catching up with a friend you haven't seen in ages. I'm talking like a formative span. You're going to notice some things.

In some cases, it's that they've changed, not in a necessarily bad way, but in a way that doesn't jive with who you are now. People do need to change - it's a good thing - but that can mean the changes go in incompatible directions.

That's one issue at work. I simply don't care about Jillette's life, especially his home life (or his relationships, etc...) and that's the central issue for him here. I did think this would be more along the lines of less my-own-personal-life essays about STUFF (yes, I'm unclear) but instead, it's nearly 100% about him (and his kids and his wife). Not a bad thing, but I don't care. Not a shred, not a whit. If it were a more engaging book, maybe the incessant self-involvement would have become interesting, but it failed for me. If this were a conversation, I would have ducked out to the restroom and never come back to the table.

The second scenario is when the old friend hasn't changed - and it's sad, weird, and stagnant. They're just doing more of the same or the same only more.

That's happened here, too. Jillette's writing style hasn't changed much, if at all. What was edgy and cool is now kind of glib and drab from over-use, with an occasional burst of HEY EDGY! that just underscores the fact that edgy isn't what it used to be.

Is it me, or is it him? I don't know, but does it matter in the end? Will I buy or even read something by him again? Let me phrase the answer in the metaphor of the re-meeting. "Hey, Penn, that's great. You seem happy, man. Good for you, really. I've got to run, though - but we should totally catch up again, soon. Definitely." Infamous last words, yes?

TL:DR? Thanks for the memories, but enough is enough.

Aubrey says

Here's the thing, Penn is the real deal. If you want someone to sugar coat things, to "play it safe," to give you what you want to hear then don't ever listen to Penn. Listening to Penn, reading his words, makes me feel human again. It makes me proud to be human, to be me and to not fall under the majority. On top of that this book is so much about love than anything else and that is why I connected with it. I'm a very vocal person and strongly feel that if we are to make positive change in this world (because complacency gets us nowhere) we have to speak up but passionately, not be silent, and we have to act with passion. However, when we do we are in the minority because many rather be silent, stay out of the limelight, not "rock the boat" by speaking the truth because they fear how they will be perceived. Fuck fear. A good level of fear, like stress, is good, but I will not live my whole life in fear of perception. But back to love. It's the people that speak up that are the most passionate, and that is what people often confuse- they confuse honesty with hatred. When really it depends on where the honesty comes from and if you pay attention you can tell the difference. People like Penn Jillette and Jesse Ventura who speak the truth and are downright logical, wear their hearts on their sleeves and are filled with nothing but love. That's all I'll say about that.

My favorite quote in this book was about how words are taken different ways. For example, normally when a religious person says the word atheist they don't think of it in a good way. But that's them and what we do with the word is up to us. So he says, "Let them name you with hate, and come back with love."

Marsha says

I knew this book would be funny and profane. I also knew Jillette would spent a fair amount of time discussing religion (or lack thereof) and magic. But I was surprised to find so much tenderness in these pages, too. Occasionally Jillette's brashness takes a back seat to sincere and touching discussions of his

affection for Teller, for his wife and (especially) his kids, for his parents, and even for people you'd think he wouldn't like.

I don't agree with everything Jillette says. But I can at least give him credit for making an effort to do his own research and come to his own conclusions about various issues. He's a surprisingly good writer (no coauthor is listed, so either he worked with a very good/quiet ghostwriter or he's pretty adept at wordcraft) who, in one book, made me laugh out loud and pause to consider several serious points.
