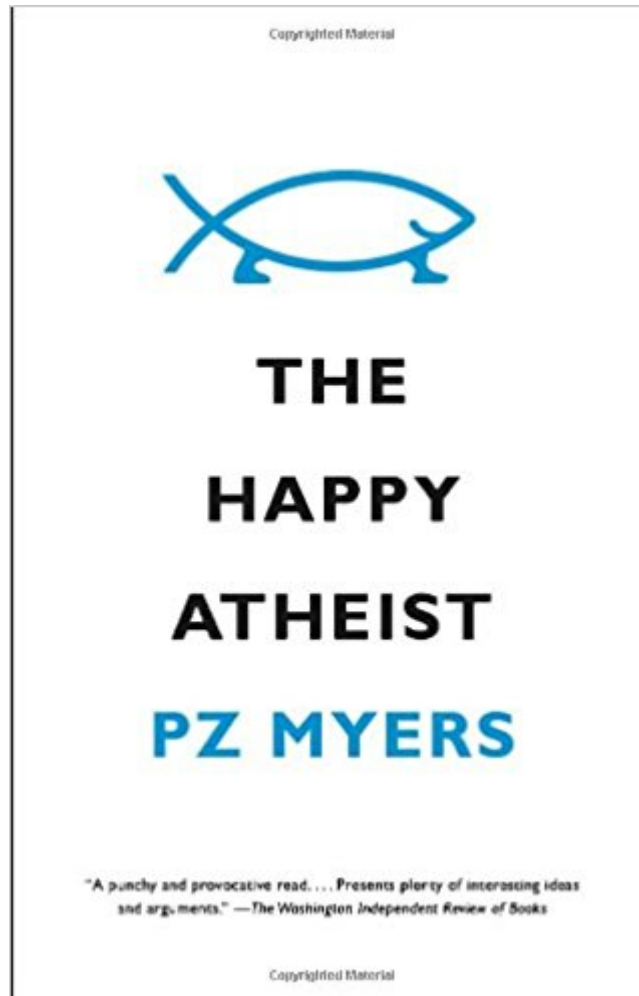




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The Happy Atheist



Synopsis

On his popular science blog, Pharyngula, PZ Myers has entertained millions of readers with his infectious love of evolutionary science and his equally infectious disdain for creationism, biblical literalism, intelligent design theory, and other products of godly illogic. This funny and fearless book collects and expands on some of his most popular writings, giving the religious fanaticism of our times the gleeful disrespect it deserves by skewering the apocalyptic fantasies, magical thinking, hypocrisies, and pseudoscientific theories advanced by religious fundamentalists of all stripes. Forceful and articulate, scathing and funny, *The Happy Atheist* is a reaffirmation of the revelatory power of humor and the truth-revealing powers of science and reason.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This short, breezy book contains a number of very short pieces that I gather were originally blog posts by biology professor PZ Myers. As such, they were likely amiable and pleasant reads directed at an audience of followers and whoever among the general public stumbled across them. They are certainly (mostly) entertaining and generally have a point to make regarding the ongoing tension here in the US between faith and reason. Were I to have run across one or another of them somewhere on the web, I would have read them, smiled, nodded perhaps, and gone on about my business. As a compiled volume, though, I am a bit confused - who exactly is the intended audience here? As an adult, modestly read atheist there is nothing here that makes me take any real notice. There is nothing that makes me look at or examine my thinking; nothing that challenges me to look harder, think deeper, or reassess where I stand. His blogs on the violent and disturbing hate mail he

receives from various religious sorts IS disturbing, but unfortunately nothing new or terribly startling and is amusing only in a grim sort of black-comedy way. Conversely, there is nothing here addressed to, or directed at a person of faith that may be questioning her or his own beliefs and looking for something to help them examine their thinking. It is not really an attack on religion or faith in any particularly structured way, and the arguments briefly tossed out here and there in favor of reason are neither new, novel, nor presented with any fresh insight. This is all pretty much old hat.

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