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Every Day Is An Atheist Holiday!: More Magical Tales From The Bestselling Author Of God, No!



Synopsis

Let's be honest - nobody has more fun than atheists. Don't believe it? Well, consider this: For non-believers, every day you're alive is a day to celebrate! And no one celebrates life to the fullest like Penn Jillette - the larger, louder half of legendary magic duo Penn & Teller - whose spectacularly witty and sharply observant essays in *Every Day Is an Atheist Holiday!* will entertain zealots and skeptics alike. Whether he's contemplating the possibility of life after death, deconstructing popular Christmas carols, or just calling bullsh*t on Donald Trump's apprentice training, Jillette does not fail to shock and delight his readers. And as ever, underneath these rollicking rants lie a deeply personal philosophy and a generous spirit, which find joy and meaning in family, and peace in the simple beauty of the everyday. *Every Day Is an Atheist Holiday!* is a hysterical affirmation of life's magic from one of the most distinctly perceptive and provocative humorists writing today.

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Customer Reviews

If you read *God, No!*, you know what you're in for with Penn Jillette's new book. Penn rambles. Digression should be Penn's middle name. He can't talk about Christmas songs without launching into an analysis of the lyrics to the "Theme from Shaft." The books are nonetheless noticeably different. Where *God, No!* has an organizing theme (not that the book is in the least bit organized), this one aspires to be nothing more than a collection of stories. In a strange way, however, that makes *Every Day Is an Atheist Holiday* a better book. If Penn is just sitting back and telling story after story without aiming for a broader point, it doesn't matter so much that he rambles. And on the

whole, the tone of *Every Day is an Atheist Holiday* is less angry than the last book, seemingly written by a kinder, gentler Penn, although one who is still acerbic when the mood strikes. The stories are funnier, or at least more consistently funny. Some are brash, some are sweet, some are both at the same time. The title notwithstanding, *Every Day Is an Atheist Holiday* is even less about atheism than *God, No!* One of Penn's longest and best riffs on religion examines Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech, pointing out that King reached out to all Americans, not just religious Americans, and included relatively little religious language in the speech. Penn suggests that the concept of inclusion has been lost in the rhetoric of those who incorrectly proclaim America to be a "Christian nation," a phrase that deliberately excludes every American who isn't a Christian.

Penn Jillette is back with more hilarious stories and more atheistic musings in his new book, *Every Day is an Atheist Holiday!* As was the case in *God, No!*, Jillette continues to be thoughtful, funny, and honest, as well as profane and offensive. The chapters use various holidays as a springboard for some of Jillette's stories. And he does tell a good story. Some of my favorites: A reflection on Father's Day, in which he laments that he "will never experience sending and receiving a Father's Day card on the same day." He speaks lovingly of his parents, causing me to pause and be thankful for my own, as well as to reflect on my role as a father. For Groundhog Day, he compares Bill Murray's experience in the movie *Groundhog Day*, in which he lives the day over and over, to the life of a performer, doing the same routine over and over, relishing in the fact that he gets to say and do something over and over, and for the audience they see and hear it for the first time. I love Jillette's humility about show business. At several places he acknowledges that show business is nothing compared to "real" jobs. He would much rather spend hours and hours working on a movie set or perfecting a routine for his live show, than sit at a desk, answering to a boss he can't stand. He tells the story of meeting Jonas Salk, developer of the polio vaccine. "I just kept looking him in the eyes and trying to imagine what it felt like to help save that many lives. . . . Doing card tricks for a living is stupid no matter who you're talking to, but look Jonas Salk in the eyes, and it seems everyone else is doing stupid card tricks for a living." *Every Day* is mostly about telling stories.

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