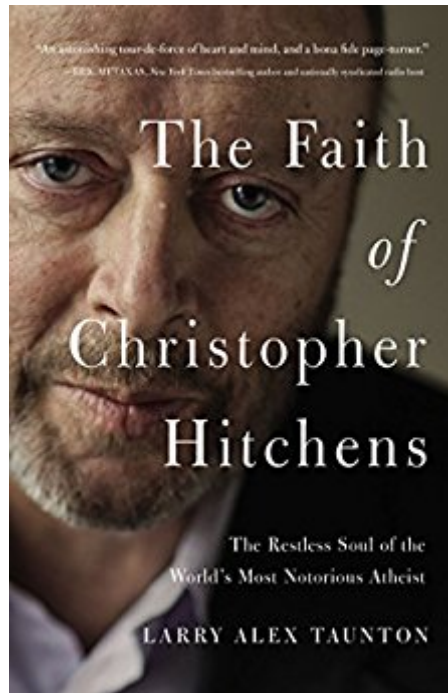


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The Faith Of Christopher Hitchens: The Restless Soul Of The World's Most Notorious Atheist



Synopsis

At the time of his death, Christopher Hitchens was the most notorious atheist in the world. And yet, all was not as it seemed. "Nobody is not a divided self, of course," he once told an interviewer, "but I think it's rather strong in my case." Hitchens was a man of many contradictions: a Marxist in youth who longed for acceptance among the social elites; a peacenik who revered the military; a champion of the Left who was nonetheless pro-life, pro-war-on-terror, and after 9/11 something of a neocon; and while he railed against God on stage, he maintained meaningful "though largely hidden from public view" friendships with evangelical Christians like Francis Collins, Douglas Wilson, and the author Larry Alex Taunton. In *The Faith of Christopher Hitchens*, Taunton offers a very personal perspective of one of our most interesting and most misunderstood public figures. Writing with genuine compassion and without compromise, Taunton traces Hitchens's spiritual and intellectual development from his decision as a teenager to reject belief in God to his rise to prominence as one of the so-called "Four Horsemen" of the New Atheism. While Hitchens was, in the minds of many Christians, Public Enemy Number One, away from the lights and the cameras a warm friendship flourished between Hitchens and the author; a friendship that culminated in not one, but two lengthy road trips where, after Hitchens's diagnosis of esophageal cancer, they studied the Bible together. *The Faith of Christopher Hitchens* gives us a candid glimpse into the inner life of this intriguing, sometimes maddening, and unexpectedly vulnerable man. If everyone in the United States had the same qualities of loyalty and care and concern for others that Larry Taunton had, we'd be living in a much better society than we do. ~ Christopher Hitchens

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Customer Reviews

I honestly can't see what all the brouhaha is about. The author is a Christian and speaks in that voice. However, he is respectful toward Hitchens the man, is clearly fond of him, litters the book with verifiable events, appearances, and quotes and then adds to these private moments that don't contradict them in the least, but rather humanize Hitchens and show that there was, indeed, a person there. It is impossible to read the book and not become fond of Hitchens, and I say this as a longtime atheist. Hitchens comes off as fearless, thoughtful, intellectually curious and generous, and in fact decent—a man of integrity and kindness (if also with a few basic flaws) when not onstage. He comes off, in fact, rather better than the author himself, and I like Hitchens all the more for having read the book, not less. There is no claim to a deathbed conversion here, and in fact a rather clear statement that there is no evidence of one. The author does, as a Christian (and what else might we expect him to do, if he has any integrity?) indicate that he hopes that there was one, silently, despite the lack of evidence, because he is quite simply that fond of Hitchens. More importantly, what is in evidence is a strong friendship grounded in mutual respect and curiosity between two individuals whose own followers too often miss the point and purpose that drives them to speak in the first place—that of making the world and human life somehow better. Both seem to understand that they share this deep motivation and value, even if they disagree on nearly everything else. And just as importantly, they courageously confront this disagreement, together, and listen to one another with respect.

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