



The Trouble With Being God

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Steven Carvelle is a journalist and a self-diagnosed alcoholic. Lately his dreams have been taking a turn for the worse, and the violence that was once only in his mind has begun to manifest in the world around him. When a series of murders overflows into the lives of Steven, his girlfriend, Karen, and best friend Miles (a detective on the local police force), Steven is forced to dive further into his mind and the realm of self-awareness than ever before. Questioning not only society and religion, but even his own sanity, he must decide what is real, what is not, and how everything in his life has intertwined to lead him to now. Then he is required to make a decision. At its heart, a tale about what happens to these characters while these events unfold around them. Most of all it's about understanding and coming to grips with who you are, and the frightful and dangerous consequences of thinking you are someone you are not.

The Trouble With Being God Details

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Dawn says

This was a super-quick read. It was definitely incredibly graphic and disturbing in places (I'm not sure I would have made it through the movie adaptation of this at all), but it was interesting. You think you figure it out halfway through, but there's a twist on the very last page that really gets your brain going. This is one I'll be thinking about for a while, for sure.

Jennifer K says

I thought this book had a unique take on the multiple personality phenomena. There was one Steve (albeit a prick in his own right) that was inherently good even though he was a harassed, harried journalist. However, at night, he became what he really wanted to be; a person who could take out all those people who had done him an injustice in the world.

A strange but incredibly fascinating book. I liked the suggestion to listen to a certain song at points in the book. Never knew anyone who liked the Black Rebel Motorcycle club before :) Kudos. Good book, and an enjoyable read.

Nicholas says

The characters were flat and the dialogue amateurish. It violates the most basic premise of writing, namely show (through dialogue and plot) don't tell (through third party description and overly dramatic adjectives) your story. Though very violent, the plot did not build dramatic tension, but then gimmicks and cliché seldom do. After reading this self published (and apparently self edited) novel, I can only conclude that the rave reviews are from family, friends, old classmates and the author himself (who graciously gave himself 5 stars in his review of his own book). I was looking for something twisty and in the spirit of Chuck Palahniuk, but this doesn't cut it. I would pass on this one.

Molly says

I loved the idea of this novel, it had potential. I really feel the characters lacked depth and sometimes the conversation they carried on seemed somehow staged. Like the author wanted to say something through the story and just threw them in. People say it was graphic? I don't see that in the least... When it comes down to it I feel this novel is a watered down version of a b rate movie with bad actors and an even worse script. If you want something better read Will baer or really anything eles.

Travis Boss says

Book was good but the ending was absolutely god awful.

Khrissy says

Umm what?!? Mind blowing, so psychological, so crafty. Definitely a good read on a dark and lonesome night.

Todd Fonseca says

Brutally murdered, a catholic priest hangs crucified on the side of an abandoned brewery. Steven Carvelle, a feature reporter for the Courtsdale Courier, covers the slaying. One murder leads to the another, each one more heinous, and a serial killer is born. Tormented by his own internal demons while covering these cases, Carvelle begins having his own nightmares of increasing brutality. Subsequently, his relationship with his girlfriend, best friend, as well as his inner self deteriorates and his grasp on reality begins to warp. Carvelle questions the meaning of life, the purpose of religion, and what the slayings all have in common. Unfortunately, the answer may be one he is unwilling to face.

While reading William Aicher's, *The Trouble With Being God*, I was reminded of the 1987 movie *Angel Heart* starring Mickey Rourke, Robert De Niro, and Lisa Bonet. Both feature a main character trying to solve the mystery surrounding a series of brutal slayings while evidence mounts pointing to them as the potential killer. Both also have substantial religious overtones.

Aicher's writing is crisp and the novel moves quickly. There are a number of philosophical discussions between Carvelle and his friend Miles that recall the days of late night college dorm room discussions. Many of these involve religion and its role in society. However, not all are delved into as deeply as I would have liked. Also, for those expected neat and tidy closure to the various story arcs, you may be a little frustrated at the end. But realize Aicher's focus isn't necessarily the slayings themselves, though this provides the novels backbone pushing the plot forward, but the inner journey of our own occasional brutal thoughts and passions and how we choose to manage them.

Something unique offered by this novel to enhance the readers experience, are Aicher's footnoted musical selections to be listened to while reading various parts of the novel. For this, Aicher draws on his experience as Director of Marketing for an online sheet music retailer and previous position as Editor In-Chief for an online music review website. The songs are available on the books website.

For those looking for a face paced read, while realizing the novel contains violence similar to that featured on an intense CSI episode, check out *The Trouble With Being God*.

Joshua Nomen-Mutatio says

This guy is from the same little pocket of small town Wisconsin that I grew up in. And this book sounds pretty interesting.

Charriza says

My God.

I couldn't put this down. The entire time reading this novel, I pictured a movie. It was a very fast read with truly mentally deranged points of view. There are religious criticisms and descriptive psychological disturbing acts layed out in the book. In a movie, it's the shock and gorge that scares a viewer, but as a reader Aicher is able vividly create an image in your mind that you can't shake. You can't cover your eyes and say to the person next to you "I'm not looking, tell me when it's over" - you're screwed, once you read it, it's in there.

What made me cling to the story was the assurance that I knew exactly how it would end. I will admit, after the first few chapters I said to myself "Oh, I know the ending already". I was proud of my self and I kept that mentality throughout the book. I was completely and utterly wrong. That just made me love this F*&\$@ED up book even more.

In addition to the mental cluster F\$%# the book gave me, I loved the footnotes at the bottom of certain chapters. Example: 1Play Audio: "Shuffle Your Feet" by Black Rebel Motorcycle Club (BRMC). Of course I would search my iTunes or Youtube and listen to the entire song before reading the upcoming chapter. This isn't required but I strongly encourage you to do so. The music either sets the mood or solidifies what just occurred.

In horror movies, the music alone can make the hairs on the back of your neck stand on it's end (Signs or The Shining) but the music selection chosen by Aicher are subliminal and prodigious. Picture the ending scene of the movie The Departed - Roy Buchanan's - Sweet Dreams just wrapped up that entire moment of justice.

Note: I mentally casted John Cusack as Steve, and that's because he did an excellent job in Stephen King's short story: 1408.

Let me know what you think about this book! If you love criminal and thriller movies, you'll love this book!

Jennifer says

I really enjoyed reading this book. Bill keeps you engaged in the characters activites and does a great job of keeping you guessing as to what is coming next. The ending is not what you expect, but Bill does make his point with it (which is what he intended!)

Paul Blake says

This is the third book I've read by William Aicher and yet again he comes up with the goods. Each book being different in theme, scope and genre. Each book being highly readable, well written, and entertaining. I enjoyed the sharp dialogue between Steve(n) and Karen, very realistic of a couple that cannot remember why

they are together. The story had some gory moments, however I felt they weren't the main part of the story which made a nice change for these type of books.

Kristen Finger says

Left to many questions and the ending was horrible!!

Sam Hendricks says

Aicher is a master. This was legitimately the creepiest and most disturbing story I've read recently or ever. It rocked me. Still reeling. Mind-blowing ending. Awesome unique touches.

Hope Aicher says

Truly troubling.

Heather says

I am not sure how I feel about this book. I do like a good murder mystery, but this one left me feeling unsatisfied. Although the story flowed well, and the characters were well written, there were too many questions throughout the book that did not get answered by the end. Who is the killer? Why did he do it? Why does Steven hate God? Why is Karen so bitchy? Overall, this is a well written book, and it has an ending that you are not expecting. However, I just wish there was a little more to the story.
