



Killing the Buddha: A Heretic's Bible

By Peter Manseau, Jeff Sharlet

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Now in paperback -- the book that caused a religious and critically acclaimed stir. *Publishers Weekly* called it "the most original and insightful spiritual writing to come out of America since Jack Kerouac first hit the road." *The Buffalo News* hailed it as "one of the most eccentric and fascinating books of the year." *O, The Oprah Magazine* said "This collection proves that fear and trembling are human, but a sense of humor is divine."

Peter Manseau and Jeff Sharlet have created a work of calling that is as odd, moving, and inspiring as the people and the scriptures they encountered. Whether it is Manseau and Sharlet telling their "psalms" from outposts as unexpected as a strip club or a cattle-auction barn, Peter Trachtenberg unraveling the Gordian logic of Job via the Borscht Belt, Rick Moody finding a modern-day Jonah in Queens, or Haven Kimmel shocking and thrilling us with her Revelation, what emerges is not an attack on religion, but a quizzical, fascinating look at it from the inside. *Killing the Buddha* is a positively riveting look at the facets of true belief.

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- Sales Rank: #1536721 in Books
- Brand: Brand: Free Press
- Published on: 2004-10-04
- Released on: 2004-10-04
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.44" h x .80" w x 5.50" l, .90 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 304 pages

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

The set-up goes like this: take two religiously flippant intellectuals (in this case, Manseau and Sharlet, the founding editors of the spiritually hip online magazine *Killing the Buddha*) and send them on a yearlong road trip to discover the underbelly of America's religious culture. Make sure they mingle with the most wild and weird of holy rollers—a philosophical stripper working out of a converted Baptist church in Nashville, a one-eyed rodeo preacher from the "Cowboy Church" of Texas, a clan of bloodthirsty Jesus freaks in Florida and a cross-dressing terrorist from North Carolina badly in need of an exorcism. Take all these "true" stories, turn them into the "Bible's Book of Psalms," and alternate them with 13 freshly imagined "books" of the Bible, written by iconic American writers such as Rick Moody, Peter Trachtenberg and Haven Kimmel—and, voila, a heretic's Bible is born. Each of the 13 contributors was offered "a solo, a single book from the Bible to be remade, revealed, replaced, inverted, perverted, or born again, however the spirit so led them." The writers came up with seven nonfiction books (e.g., in "Exodus" Francine Prose draws upon her childhood to explain why she can no longer stomach seders) and six books of pure fiction. "Like the original, this Bible crosses freely between genres, between history and prophecy, confession and myth," according to Manseau and Sharlet. As disjointed and freakish as this biblical sequel sounds, the editors manage to pull off a most impressive work. This is some of the most original and insightful spiritual writing to come out of America since Jack Kerouac first hit the road.

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From Booklist

For there to be heresy, there must be orthodoxy, and what is one person's orthodoxy if not another person's heresy? Manseau and Sharlet, cofounders of an Utne Independent Press Award-winning online magazine, here report upon a cross-country odyssey that netted more than a dozen true-life religious experiences, which are recounted in the manner of psalms or songs about the common person and his or her relationship to God. Interspersed with those psalms are 13 books of the Bible, spanning from Genesis to Revelation, rewritten, or rewritten and interpreted, by a variety of authors, poets, teachers, and performance artists, none of whom claims religious authority. Still, the results are marvelous, profoundly personal observations, as diverse as Randall Kenan's fictionalized gospel, about 62-year-old miracle worker Velmajean and the Atomic Reverend "Spike" Horowitz, and Peter Trachtenberg's distillation of the story of Job in a Venn diagram. And the book offers laughter in Manseau and Sharlet's psalm about visiting a Heartland, Kansas, pagan community; tears in Michael Lesy's anguish over being a Levite, hence one of biblical Israel's official executioners. *Donna Chavez*

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Review

The New York Observer Whip-smart....Not so much a rewriting of the Bible as a super-charged hip-hop makeover....A genuine stab at a saucy kind of spirituality that's as bold as it is refreshing.

Elle Quirky, far-ranging....With a format as complex as many people's relationship with God, it shouldn't work, but it does -- a literary leap of faith.

The Denver Post A heartfelt meditation on and exploration of contemporary religious practice in the United States...an intriguing work that is unafraid of controversy.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Douglas Leverette:

Reading a publication tends to be new life style within this era globalization. With examining you can get a lot of information that could give you benefit in your life. Along with book everyone in this world can certainly share their idea. Guides can also inspire a lot of people. A great deal of author can inspire their own reader with their story as well as their experience. Not only the story that share in the ebooks. But also they write about the ability about something that you need case in point. How to get the good score toefl, or how to teach your young ones, there are many kinds of book which exist now. The authors in this world always try to improve their proficiency in writing, they also doing some exploration before they write with their book. One of them is this *Killing the Buddha: A Heretic's Bible*.

Mac Cutter:

Reading a book being new life style in this year; every people loves to learn a book. When you examine a book you can get a great deal of benefit. When you read publications, you can improve your knowledge, simply because book has a lot of information on it. The information that you will get depend on what sorts of book that you have read. If you wish to get information about your examine, you can read education books, but if you act like you want to entertain yourself look for a fiction books, this kind of us novel, comics, as well as soon. The *Killing the Buddha: A Heretic's Bible* will give you a new experience in looking at a book.

Lloyd Schuler:

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Clark Abeyta:

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