

[PDF] Losing My Religion: How I Lost My Faith Reporting On Religion In America And Found Unexpected Peace

William Lobdell - pdf download free book

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Description:

From Publishers Weekly A former religion reporter for the *Los Angeles Times*, Lobdell recounts in this plainly written memoir how he became a Protestant evangelical, nearly accepted Catholicism and, in the end, rejected faith altogether. Central to the arc of this memoir is the unfolding sexual abuse scandal in the Roman Catholic Church, which Lobdell covered in depth during his time as a religion reporter, beginning in 2000. Despairing of the role of priests and bishops in that scandal, he refashions his identity as a crusading reporter out to cleanse the church of corrupt

leaders. But after finding that his investigative stories about faith healer Benny Hinn and televangelists Jan and Paul Crouch appear to make no difference on the reach of these ministries or the lives of their followers, he gives up on the beat and on religion generally. Lobdell subjects his faith to the rigors of rationalism. If Christians are no more ethical than atheists, why belong to a church? It's a curious utilitarian argument that sounds more like a rearview explanation than a revealing account of loss of faith. Still, the memoir's strength lies in the wrenching emotional toll exacted by the Catholic abuse scandal. If nothing else, it suggests reporters may have been victimized by the scandal, too. (*Mar.*)

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From *Starred Review* Lobdell's spiritual life had been a roller-coaster ride. During his late twenties, his marriage fell apart, he drank too much, and he cheated on his new—and pregnant—girlfriend. He was running away from responsibility as fast as he could. So when a friend told him he needed God—he suspended church attendance when a teenager—he listened. Slowly, things turned around. He secured a new job, marriage to his second wife went well, everything seemed to be falling into place. Attributing his newfound success to faith, he became a born-again Christian and, later, seriously considered converting to Catholicism. He became a full-time religion reporter for the Los Angeles Times, a job that exposed him to other faiths and to stories of abuse in mainstream religion circles, especially the sexual abuse scandal within the Catholic Church. Before long, he was wracked with doubt and stopped attending church altogether. "My long honeymoon with Christianity had ended." Finally, he reached a turning point at which he concluded that there is no God. Lobdell's spiritual journey fascinates, not least on account of the irony of his trajectory from agnosticism to belief to atheism while covering religion. It's a story that may raise eyebrows among believers and nonbelievers alike. --June Sawyers

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a violent sto Losing My Virginity: How I Survived, Had Fun, and Made a Fortune Doing Busine Losing My Religion: How I Lost My Faith Reporting on Religion in America-and Found Unexpected Peace. 305 PagesÂ·2009Â·893 KBÂ·76 DownloadsÂ·New! and nonbelievers alike. Losing My Religion: How I Lost My Faith Losing My Religion: How I Lost My Faith Reporting on Religion in America and Found Unexpected Peace. 223 PagesÂ·2009Â·1001 KBÂ·22 DownloadsÂ·New! and nonbelievers alike. Losing My Religion: How I Lost My Faith ...Â How I made my first million : 26 self-made millionaires reveal the secrets to their success Nick I'm Rich Beyond My Wildest Dreams--I Am. I found Losing My Religion to be a very authentic read. Anyone who has ever dared to question their faith knows there are only two possible outcomes: questioning leads to deeper faith, or turns you away from it altogether. And when you've depended on faith for many years, when you're surrounded by people who are faithful, if you turn away from it, you find it is a very lonely journey.Â His book's subtitle, How I Lost My Faith Reporting on Religion in America -- and Found Unexpected Peace, accurately describes the arc of his story. We see how he became enamoured of Christianity, and how the church of his choice didn't quite live up to his expectations, and how he nevertheless reconciled his misgivings and embraced his faith. â€œLosing My Religionâ€ also received glowing critical reviews, winning the Grammy for Best Pop Performance by a Duo or Group. The music video won a Grammy (Best Short Form Music Video). Rolling Stone Magazine included the song on its list of â€œThe 500 Greatest Songsâ€. Despite the title (and the imagery in the video), the song has nothing to do with religion. Lyricist and lead singer Michael Stipe has stated the song is about doubt, obsession, and unrequited love. He was inspired by The Policeâ€™s â€œEvery Breath You Takeâ€. Stipe told Rolling Stone magazine: â€œItâ€™s just a classic obsession pop song. Iâ€™m Three Decades Ago, America Lost Its Religion. Why? â€œNot religiousâ€ has become a specific American identityâ€one that distinguishes secular, liberal whites from the conservative, evangelical right.Â But in the early 1990s, the historical tether between American identity and faith snapped. Religious non-affiliation in the U.S. started to riseâ€and rise, and rise. By the early 2000s, the share of Americans who said they didnâ€™t associate with any established religion (also known as â€œnonesâ€) had doubled.Â But the rise of religious non-affiliation in America looks like one of those rare historical moments that is neither slow, nor subtle, nor cyclical. You might call it exceptional.