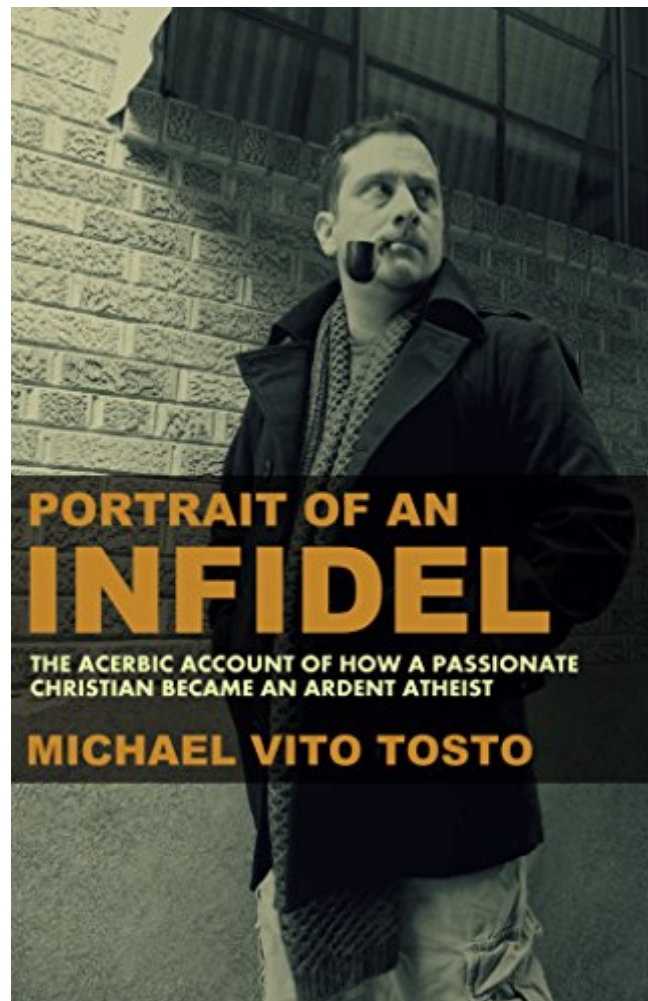


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Portrait Of An Infidel: The Acerbic Account Of How A Passionate Christian Became An Ardent Atheist



Synopsis

"Portrait of an Infidel" is a brutally candid memoir documenting my life as a Christian, my investigation into my beliefs, my subsequent rejection of faith, and my embrace of atheism. When I say "brutally candid," I mean that my personal, harrowing experiences with religion (and life in general) have been bled onto the page. The reader will come away with no doubt as to my passion and conviction for the subject, even if he or she disagrees with my suppositions. My intention was to demonstrate the harm that Christianity inflicted upon me, both practically and psychologically, as well as to show how my embrace of atheism helped to reverse that harm. To achieve this, I rendered myself as vulnerable and as forthcoming as I could possibly be, pouring my truest self into each word. "Portrait of an Infidel" was written in a conversational, almost lyrical style that, while inviting the reader into an experience of literary intimacy, also conveys academic and intellectual complexities in a clear and graspable manner. The language is therefore relaxed yet erudite in places. This is a reflection of my own approach to life. The subtitle of the book is "The Acerbic Account of How a Passionate Christian Became an Ardent Atheist." This is because acerbity and indignation permeate the text. This was done on purpose, not as a concerted effort to offend as much as a means of establishing my own disdain for what I perceive as the evils of religion in general and Christianity in particular. I believe this disdain will further enable my readers to understand my motives, my passion, and to some extent, my lingering pain. "Portrait of an Infidel" is a work that makes use of wit and humor, includes shades of philosophy and existentialism, brushes against the backdrop of science and cosmology, and is infused with the beauties and horrors of the human condition. As such, I believe this book to be a weighty tour de force, an achievement of brazen humanity, a hauntingly poignant story of awakening and deliverance, and a damn fine read that will encompass the reader in a chrysalis of intellectual introspection and personal reflection. To read this book is to be changed, even if you still disagree when it's over.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I never thought I would come across a book about atheism that grips you from start to finish – the sort of book you can't set down because you want to know how things turn out. Michael Vito Tosto has written such a book. The Portrait of an Infidel is his memoir chronicling seventeen years of his youth and early adulthood spent as a Christian, his disillusionment with religion, his crisis of faith, and eventual path to atheism. Other authors have written such books, but Tosto comes to his project with two major differences. First, he is an exceptionally talented story teller. He tells his story in a way that flows compellingly, pulling you along with interest. His second gift is that he is highly introspective and willing to share his innermost personal problems as he describes his deconversion journey away from religion. His tale itself is not necessarily unusual, but rarely do we come across an author capable of expressing his emotions so intimately. He describes the devastation he felt when the first great love in his life abandoned him without any warning or word: "I lay awake – silently weeping, feeling the most alone I have ever felt in my life. It seemed like the very air around me was nothing but little, invisible particles of toxicity, and that to even breathe was a horrific exercise in torment. I missed Emily more than I could even understand, so much that it frightened me. I felt like a madman whose next wild moves could spell his doom, that at any moment I might snap and blow up the entire world, taking the whole miserable human race with me." Emily had left him a parting gift: a Bible.

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