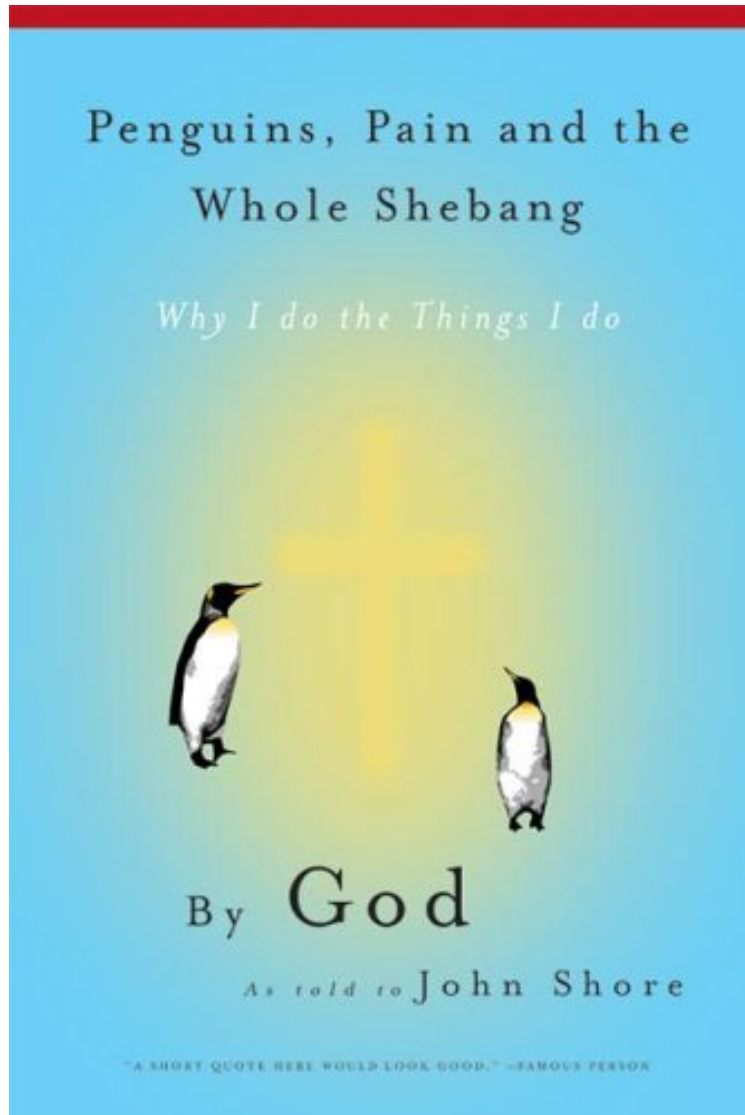


[DOWNLOAD] Penguins, Pain and the Whole Shebang: By God As Told to John Shore

## Penguins, Pain and the Whole Shebang: By God As Told to John Shore

*John Shore*

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**John Shore : Penguins, Pain and the Whole Shebang: By God As Told to John Shore** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Penguins, Pain and the Whole Shebang: By God As Told to John Shore:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. God as Mel Brooks doesn't do Christianity any favorsBy Linda B.I bought this book second-hand and really wanted to love it because I liked John Shore's website. The idea of using

humor as a persuasive tool was very appealing. The book however, left me very disappointed. From beginning to end, God comes across like Mel Brooks -- wise-cracking and laughing at his own jokes. By the end the schtick is tiresome and any reader hoping for some substance is still waiting. I agree with another reviewer who said this book is for the already-convinced. The idea of God as a prankster, hiding himself away so we can spend our entire lives trying to find him so we can then LOVE him -- yuck, yuck, oh, that God, he's a hoot all right! The same old childish explanations are offered and all we have to do is abandon logic and BELIEVE! Really, if you took this book seriously, you'd think God was at worst a sadist and at best, as powerless as the Wizard of Oz. I don't think this book does Christianity any favors. If anything, it drove this reader further away. 7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. I Went from One Star to Four Stars... Here's Why By Dena Lynn Brehm This book did indeed look good -- so good that I bought it, along with "I'm OK - You're Not" by the same author. I've now finished most of it... up to the last chapter -- which I don't think I'm going to bother reading. It's an excellent literary idea -- write from the view of God "using" the human author to write it... engaging and creative concept. Now, I'm ALL about irreverent humor, however, I got the uncomfortable feeling that the author was trying too hard to be hip, or shocking, or to somehow sneak past the defenses of "seekers" or even atheists, as if they wouldn't notice, to land a punch. Sure, there were plenty of times I guffawed. At times, I rolled my eyes. At other times, I groaned. And, there were times I cringed. Such as having "God" make an Austin Powers joke about how He mimicked Austin Powers for a while, and the angels tried to sing praise songs using the word "shagalicious". Such as God saying, "you can do any Me-damned thing you want." Such as God saying (in talking about the crucifixion): "It was a Friday. I really didn't have all that much to do but hang around anyway. For three days. I was just killing time. Oh, don't I just slay you? Cuz I sure do me." {Never mind that He didn't "hang around" for three days - He was only on the cross on Friday.} There ARE times when it's both humorous and insightful -- but those particular passages strike me as somewhat degrading. What REALLY got me cringing was the response to this question: "Even if I do believe in Christ, do I really have to go to church every Sunday? Yuck." Here's part of the "answer" from "God": "No - of course you don't have to go to church. No one has to do much of anything. But the reason so many people keep choosing to go to church is as simple as it gets: They know that they can't have a relationship with me if they don't ever come over to my house. It's just that simple. Church is my home, you know; that really is where I hang out. You get hints and intimations of me in your everyday life, for sure - but at church you get a huge honkin' helping of me. Maximum exposure. Major bang for your buck. I go where people pray, see? And a lot of people do a lot of praying at church. I'm in the wood at church. I'm in the carpet. I'm in the pews. I'm in the air there. Care Bear. Got to go where the action is, right?... You know what church does? It turns people from pessimists to optimists. Because at church, everyone you see -- from the greeter at the door to the person up front leading the whole thing -- is your partner. Your friend. People go to church because they, like everyone else in the world, are naturally drawn to go wherever they can find the most love. "Hmmm..." "His house" (I thought we were His Temple in the New Covenant)? IN the carpet? Pessimists to optimists (I've seen the opposite happen all too often)? "Person leading the whole thing" (isn't that supposed to be the Holy Spirit)? Where we "find the most love" (I found a whole lotta fear)? I guess this author's not yet come to the place where he realizes that the system of institutional Christianity is not the organic Church-Family that Jesus established. It was never about religion, but about relationship - with Him and with each other. ~BRB~ Ok - something odd just happened to me. God just got me. Only I didn't know it was God 'til just a second ago. As I said in the beginning of this post, I hadn't read the last chapter, or the end notes by the author. But, as I wrote that last statement, I suddenly got an URGE to read the last chapter, just to "be fair" y'know. So, I just read the rest. Oh, dear God... the entire last chapter is about how the Christian life is about God eradicating fear out of us... oh, wow. As I read it, the truth of it filled me. (There are a couple of minor disagreements -- like, I do not believe that God designed us to feel fear, but that it's our reality in the absence of His love.) And then -- I read the author's afterword -- and it was like sitting here, listening to him bare his heart. He shared how God got his attention, when he, a confirmed God-ridiculer, was at work... and God started filling him with Himself, and the guy ran off to a broom closet, saw himself as he is, hit his knees, and just KNEW Jesus was true. And that was that. And, now, I must repent... now I see the rest of the book through new eyes, his eyes. It's like his Jesus-following self is talking to his former Jesus-ridiculing self, in a way that a Jesus-riduling person could relate... And, except for the traditional view of "going to church" rather than BEING the Church, I like it, because of how it's summed up. And because of the effect it's obviously had on some of the folks who've reviewed it (even folks who aren't believers). It seems to have gotten them thinking... and so, bravo John Shore, for following Him in this way. And, of course, I'm hoping that God gives you a busted-out-of-the-building-and-the-manmade-system view of Church, but that's really His business, no? OK, this is the oddest book review I've ever written ... but perhaps one of the most impacting ones for me, personally. Make of it what you will... Shalom, Dena" The unanswered questions aren't nearly as dangerous as the unquestioned answers." P.S. Three other excellent books that engage the heart are: The Shack (Special Hardcover Edition) He Loves Me! Learning to Live In the Father's Affection So You Don't Want to Go to Church Anymore 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Unique! By KEBA lighthearted approach to some serious topics, this little book was not what I had expected. I was a bit disappointed. However, I can see how John Shore's humorous "voice of God" may be the perfect vehicle for communicating with readers who have tired of (or never picked up) conventional books about Christianity.

Overall, the themes of compassion, acceptance, and inclusion paint Christianity in a fresh and hopeful light.

One year after his sudden and utterly out-of-the-blue conversion to Christianity (which he describes in the riveting afterword of this book), John Shore reportedly found himself overwhelmed by the desire to write something that Christians could give to non-Christians by way of proving that just because one is Christian doesn't automatically mean that one is irrational. The result is the delightfully profound "'Penguins, Pain and the Whole Shebang: Why I Do the Things I Do,' by God (as told to John Shore)," in which God (who, it turns out, is excruciatingly funny: who knew?) directly answers the dozen objections to Christianity most typically raised by non-Christians. The book's opening dialogue between God and the archangel Michael on the eve before God introduces Adam onto planet earth is worth the price alone. There is no finer, accessible, or creative Christian apologetic. This is the book for which Mr. Shore is most likely to be remembered.

"Do yourself a favor and read this book. You will be both entertained and inspired." -- Roger McClellan, The Progressive Christian Alliance "Brilliant, quirky, perverse, exciting, and quintessentially Californian: John Shore's unique style is a delight to read-a literary feast!"-- Michael Flachmann, 1995 Carnegie Foundation United States Professor of the Year; author of *Beware the Cat: The First English Novel* (Huntington Library Press). About the Author John Shore is an award-winning book author. His articles for The Huffington Post's Religion section are among its most popular. His blog, JohnShore.com, is one of the most read and commented upon in the blogosphere. He is the founder of the growing movement known as Unfundamentalist Christians. Dan Savage ("Savage Love"; *It Gets Better*) calls John Shore "America's preeminent non-douchey Christian." Rob Bell ("*Love Wins*") has declared Mr. Shore "awesome," and "a brilliant writer." "John Shore is a gadfly," wrote famed theologian John Shelby Spong, "calling the Christian Church everywhere to act the way it says it believes about love and justice, which of course makes him an uncomfortable presence in those churches that do not like to be forced to face reality. So were the prophets of old. So was Jesus of Nazareth."