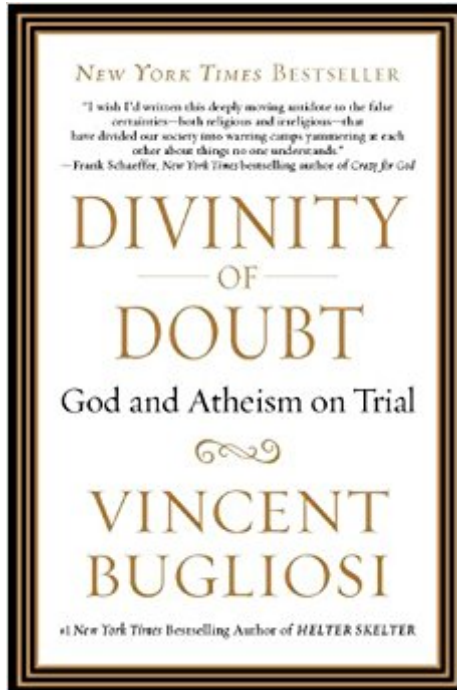


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Divinity Of Doubt: God And Atheism On Trial



Synopsis

In this controversial New York Times bestseller, Vincent Bugliosi, the fearless attorney who prosecuted Charles Manson, turns his critical eye on both religious believers and the atheists, indicting both camps for the intellectual shortcuts each takes to arrive at their conclusions. He argues lucidly and persuasively why agnosticism-and a healthy skepticism toward certainty of all kinds-is the most responsible position to take with regard to the existence of God. Divinity of Doubt sets a new course amid the explosion of bestselling books on religion, urging us to recognize the limits of what we know, and what we cannot know, about the ineffable mysteries of existence.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

As he maintains in the book, Bugliosi is by nature a critical person. He finds and attacks what he perceives to be the weaknesses in atheist and theist arguments, and I really got the sense while reading the book that he's the type of person who strives to be as objective as humanly possible. I felt that the weakest part of the book was the discussion of evolution - several times Bugliosi objects that he cannot imagine a bacteria evolving into Mozart, but of course, evolutionists believe the process happened gradually over billions of years, so to phrase the claim in such a way sets up a strawman. Bugliosi errors again by thinking "locally" about cats and dogs (why haven't they changed in the last 10,000 years, he asks?) when they have a great deal, genetically speaking! In fact, the genetic arguments for evolution are completely left undiscussed by Bugliosi. Despite this flaw, this book is commendable for two reasons. #1, since there is very little hard evidence that points in either direction of "a god's" existence, Bugliosi's common sense objections serve him fairly well here. And

#2, his willingness to take on either side of the debate and outright offend those of either viewpoint that he deems as foolish, is a breath of fresh air in a debate where there is often a lot of back slapping and "supporting your own team". Bugliosi is a truth teller (or at least he makes his best attempt to be), and that's about the highest compliment I can give someone when it comes to debate.

Having an interest in the subject matter of this book - and based on Vince Bugliosi's reputation, I bought the Kindle version of the book without downloading and reading the sample. Bad mistake. In this book, Mr Bugliosi disagrees with everyone who has an opinion different from his own - including experts in fields where he freely admits he has little or no expertise. His reason? Common sense. For example, with regard to evolution he states "...every writer I personally have read on the subject clearly has lacked, in my opinion, the ability to communicate his alleged knowledge of Darwin's theory. In other words, as is so often the case in life, these writers are markedly inept in their ability to impart to others what they claim to know." I would suggest that perhaps Mr. Bugliosi doesn't have a fundamental understanding of science that would allow him to comprehend higher concepts - or else he's dumber than a rock. I could give many other examples of his arrogance and his mocking tone of writing, but it's better for the reader to discover them. I do applaud Mr. Bugliosi for admitting that he doesn't know if God exists; however, I do wonder why he makes that concession - he clearly thinks he knows everything else. I would highly recommend that the prospective buyer download the sample of this book or browse through it at a local bookstore before purchasing it - or perhaps just ask a stranger on the street what he thinks about the existence of God. I expect his opinion will be just as valuable as Mr. Bugliosi's opinion (and that's ALL he states in this book) - and it will certainly cost less.

As a long time reader of Vincent Bugliosi's works and a person interested in peoples' need to have a religion, I thought this book might be interesting. However, Bugliosi starts almost right off replacing facts with his opinions. His first flaw that gave me pause was in his description of atheists as people who want to destroy all religion. That is patently not true. Atheists use science and common sense to come to the conclusion that an imaginary, magic person in the sky is not necessary to have formed the earth and all life on it. They just don't want religious people using their clout to infuse government or everyday life with their beliefs. His second blatant error that made me stop reading the book was in his doubts of the veracity of Darwin's theory of evolution. Unbelievably, he uses the old creationist diatribe of "if we evolved from monkeys, then why are there still monkeys?" With this,

I put the book down with no interest in picking it up again. Mr. Bugliosi has no authority or background to write a book of this kind and should have known better than to use his opinions as stated fact.

I've read and enjoyed some of Bugliosi's other works and was looking forward to this one. Now, I am still stunned by how awful and poorly-written it was. The majority of the book seems to be ad hominem attacks and straw-man arguments. Coupled with Bugliosi's lack of understanding about several of the subjects he brings up, it makes for a very irritating read. The only interesting thing about this book is seeing the sort of tricks a good prosecutor must use in court applied to writing. On the rare occasion when he does make a good point, he repeats it over and over again, literally dozens of times, with barely altered phrasing. If he hadn't said he doesn't use a computer and does all his writing longhand, I would have suspected him of overuse of cut-and-paste. One of the most annoying facets of the book is that Bugliosi comes up with his own definitions for words and phrases that don't match up with reality. (Anytime you see "common sense" you can safely substitute "popular superstition".) He also claims that anyone calling themselves an Atheist "believes" there is no god... no "probably" or "reasonably certain" about it, thereby setting up one of his many straw-man arguments. He also admits near-complete ignorance about several subjects (computers, biology, evolution, etc.) and then goes on to make absolute judgements about them based on his erroneous assumptions. I would advise anyone who is well-read and educated, whether believer or not, to avoid wasting their money on this mish-mash of Bugliosi's personal prejudices.

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