

(Free pdf) Hey Nostradamus!

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DOUGLAS COPELAND

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DOUGLAS COPELAND : Hey Nostradamus! before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Hey Nostradamus!:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Another good read by Douglas Coupland By Brian J. Kirby This is the second book by Douglas Coupland that I have read. The other was Eleanor Rigby. I read this book in two days.

Could not put it down. It brought me into the story and even affected my mood. I think the ending was left to interpretation. I choose to take the happier path. You can get a synopsis of the book from the bookseller that would be better than I could do. I'm here to tell you it's worth the read. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. The Hazards of Christianity without Christ By Customer Cheryl and Jason, in order to remain faithful to God, delay sex until they are secretly married at age seventeen. Their church youth group condemns the two, believing they are fornicating. Then Cheryl is killed during a massacre at their school and dies in Jason's arms. For about two weeks, Jason is blamed for the school shootings. Although he is found innocent by the police, many people still believe he is guilty. The first part of this novel is penned by Cheryl after she dies, trying to understand her life, God, death, her marriage and other issues. Jason's story takes place ten years later when he struggles with his life. He's never recovered from losing Cheryl, his terrible relationship with his parents or his loss of faith. Cheryl's parents and brother write to Jason about their remorse from losing Cheryl. The three letters contain widely differing accounts of their lives at the time of the massacre and now. Part three, by Heather, tells of her relationship with Jason and having to deal with his sudden disappearance. Part four is from the viewpoint of Jason's father, Reg, who had been a hypocritical, legalistic religious nutcase. He becomes a likeable person finally. The characters seem alive and easy to care about. They face battles every human feels. Their actions and how they do or don't resolve issues keeps readers intrigued. The story gently condemns fake Christianity instead of the real relationship with Jesus that keeps us loving God and others. If you appreciate Christian novels that are well-crafted, you'll enjoy this story. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Mark Sadkowski Awesome book! My 17 year old son and I are reading it. He thinks it's fantastic.

In 1988, a catastrophic episode of teen violence shatters a suburban community. HEY NOSTRADAMUS follows the aftermath in various voices across two decades: the teenage victims whose ordinary preoccupations with sex and spirituality will never evolve past that moment; the parents whose exposure to their children's underground world threatens their deepest convictions; and those who come to know the survivors only later in life, unable to fully realize what really transpired. HEY NOSTRADAMUS wrestles with religion and nihilism, sorrow and acceptance. It will take you to a place you didn't know existed.

.com Considering some of his past subjects--slackers, dot-commers, Hollywood producers--a Columbine-like high school massacre seems like unusual territory for the usually glib Douglas Coupland. Anyone who has read Generation X or Miss Wyoming knows that dryly hip humor, not tragedy, is the Vancouver author's strong suit. But give Coupland credit for twisting his material in strange, unexpected shapes. Coupland begins his seventh novel by transposing the Columbine incident to North Vancouver circa 1988. Narrated by one of the murdered victims, the first part of Hey Nostradamus! is affecting and emotional enough to almost make you forget you're reading a book by the same writer who so accurately characterized a generation in his first book, yet was unable to delineate a convincing character. As Cheryl Anyway tells her story, the facts of the Delbrook Senior Secondary student's life--particularly her secret marriage to classmate Jason--provide a very human dimension to the bloody denouement that will change hundreds of lives forever. Rather than moving on to explore the conditions that led to the killings, though, Coupland shifts focus to nearly a dozen years after the event: first to Jason, still shattered by the death of his teenage bride, then to Jason's new girlfriend Heather, and finally to Reg, Jason's narrow-minded, religious father. Hey Nostradamus! is a very odd book. It's among Coupland's most serious efforts, yet his intent is not entirely clear. Certainly there is no attempt at psychological insight into the killers' motives, and the most developed relationships--those between Jason and Cheryl, and Jason and Reg--seem to have little to do with each other. Nevertheless, it is a Douglas Coupland book, which means imaginatively strange plot developments--as when a psychic, claiming messages from the beyond, tries to extort money from Heather--that compel the reader to see the story to its end. And clever turns of phrase, as usual, are never in short supply, but in Cheryl's section the fate we (and she) know awaits her gives them an added weight: "Math class was x's and y's and I felt trapped inside a repeating dream, staring at these two evil little letters who tormented me with their constant need to balance and be equal with each other," says the deceased narrator. "They should just get married and form a new letter together and put an end to all the nonsense. And then they should have kids." --Shawn Conner, .ca From Publishers Weekly Coupland has long been a genre unto himself, and his latest novel fits the familiar template: earnest sentiment tempered by sardonic humor and sharp cultural observation. The book begins with a Columbine-like shooting at a Vancouver high school, viewed from the dual perspectives of seniors Jason Klaasen and Cheryl Anyway. Jason and Cheryl have been secretly married for six weeks, and on the morning of the shooting, Cheryl tells Jason she is pregnant. Their situation is complicated by their startlingly deep religious faith (as Cheryl puts it, "I can't help but wonder if the other girls thought I used God as an excuse to hook up with Jason"), and their increasingly acrimonious relationship with a hard-core Christian group called Youth Alive! After Cheryl is gunned down, Jason manages to stop the shooters, killing one of them. He is first hailed as a hero, but media spin soon casts him in a different light. This is a promising beginning, but the novel unravels when Jason reappears as an adult and begins an odd, stilted relationship with Heather, a quirky court reporter. Jason disappears shortly after their relationship begins, and Heather turns to a psychic named Allison to track him down in a subplot that meanders and

flags. Coupland's insight into the claustrophobic world of devout faith is impressive—one of his more unexpected characters is Jason's father, a pious, crusty villain who gradually morphs into a sympathetic figure—but when he extends his spiritual explorations to encompass psychic swindles, the novel loses its focus. Coupland has always been better at comic set pieces than consistent storytelling, and his lack of narrative control is particularly evident here. Noninitiates are unlikely to be seduced, but true believers will relish another plunge into Coupland-world. Copyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Booklist Coupland, author of the cult favorite *Generation X* (1991), tells the story of a Columbine-like shooting from the perspectives of four narrators. First, there's Cheryl, killed in the shooting, who speaks from the afterlife. Then there's her boyfriend, Jason, who writes of living under a cloud of suspicion and surviving the cruelty of his radically Christian father, Reg. A woman whom Jason meets a decade after the shooting, Heather, narrates the third part, and the inflexible, evangelical Reg closes out the story. Coupland handles the diverse narrative voices impressively: Cheryl is endowed with a creepy mix of teen naivete and heavenly wisdom, and Reg writes with the complex syntax of a man who has read the Psalms one too many times. Unfortunately, Coupland's own ruminations on the theology of evil get in the way of his characters, draining the novel of much of its power. Still, there's enough here to interest Coupland's fans, who remain numerous even though his later books have not lived up to the promise of his early successes. John Green Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved