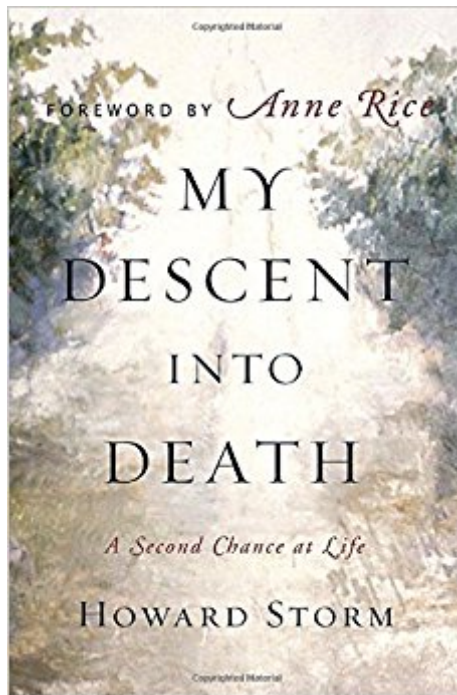




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My Descent Into Death: A Second Chance At Life



Synopsis

Not since Betty Eadie's *Embraced by the Light* has a personal account of a Near-Death Experience (NDE) been so utterly different from most others—or nearly as compelling. In the thirty years since Raymond Moody's *Life After Life* appeared, a familiar pattern of NDEs has emerged: suddenly floating over one's own body, usually in a hospital setting, then a sudden hurtling through a tunnel of light toward a presence of love. Not so in Howard Storm's case. Storm, an avowed atheist, was awaiting emergency surgery when he realized that he was at death's door. Storm found himself out of his own body, looking down on the hospital room scene below. Next, rather than going toward the light, he found himself being torturously dragged to excruciating realms of darkness and death, where he was physically assaulted by monstrous beings of evil. His description of his pure terror and torture is unnerving in its utter originality and convincing detail. Finally, drawn away from death and transported to the realm of heaven, Storm met angelic beings as well as the God of Creation. In this fascinating account, Storm tells of his life review, his conversation with God, even answers to age-old questions such as why the Holocaust was allowed to take place. Storm was sent back to his body with a new knowledge of the purpose of life here on earth. This book is his message of hope. "This is a book you devour from cover to cover, and pass on to others. This is a book you will quote in your daily conversation. Storm was meant to write it and we were meant to read it."—From the foreword by Anne Rice

As I lay on the ground, my tormentors swarming around me, a voice emerged from my chest. It sounded like my voice, but it wasn't a thought of mine. I didn't say it. The voice that sounded like my voice, but wasn't, said, "Pray to God." I remember thinking, "Why? What a stupid idea. That doesn't work. What a cop-out . . ." That voice said it again, "Pray to God!" It was more definite this time. I wasn't sure what to do. Praying, for me as a child, had been something I had watched adults doing. It was something fancy and had to be done just so. I tried to remember prayers from my childhood experiences in Sunday school. Prayer was something you memorized. What could I remember from so long ago? Tentatively, I murmured a line, which was a jumble from the Twenty-third Psalm, "The Star-Spangled Banner," the Lord's Prayer, the Pledge of Allegiance, and "God Bless America," and whatever other churchly sounding phrases came to mind. "Yea, though I walk in the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for thou art with me. For purple mountain majesty, mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord. Deliver us from evil. One nation under God. God Bless America." To my amazement, the cruel, merciless beings tearing the life out of me were incited to rage by my ragged prayer. It was as if I were throwing boiling oil on them. They screamed at me, "There is no God! Who do you think

youâ™re talking to? Nobody can hear you! Now we are really going to hurt you.â• They spoke in the most obscene language, worse than any blasphemy said on earth. But at the same time, they were backing away.â”From My Descent into Death

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Customer Reviews

Although numerous studies and books have explored near-death experiences, the phenomenon has been viewed with caution by many Christian denominations. So it is intriguing to read a first-person report of such an event from the perspective of a pastor in the United Church of Christ. While visiting Paris on a European tour nearly 20 years ago, 38-year-old Storm, then an atheist and art professor at Northern Kentucky University, was stricken with an almost lethal attack of peritonitis. In this necessarily subjective but absorbing chronicle of what is essentially a conversion, the writer describes a descent into Hell, where he confronted his anger and self-centered personality. After praying for the first time, he was rescued by Jesus and brought to heaven for an extensive conversation with Jesus and various angelic beings on topics that include the Holocaust, God's plans for the earth, angelology and, of course, what happens to us when we die. Blending traditional Christian theology with a doctrinal eclecticism more common to New Age philosophy, Storm's book may appeal to readers hungry for reassurance, both about the possibility of eternal life and the meaning of our choices here on earth. Copyright Â© Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

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â•“From the Foreword by Anne Rice

I believe that what Howard Storm experienced is real because of the changes that are manifested in his life. I have been a Christian for over 47 years, what I have read here, resonates with my experience of God. While I have not had an NDE, I know the Truth when I hear it. I have no trouble believing that God loves us to the core of our being, and that the only way to grow in the knowledge of His LOVE, is to love the people He puts before you. I also know that this is by no means an easy thing to do, but when I do, I experience the Love of God in ways that I never imagined. I pray that this book will bless you on your journey to the Truth.

I would like to thank the author Howard Storm for sharing his personal experience. The message of this book is about God's divine love and grace extended to every single person on earth, not just exclusive to any particular religious group. The love of God is reflected in every human being, and it's our choice whether to accept it and more importantly, reflect it on our family, friends, neighbors, and strangers. Like the author said, each of us can make a difference by praying for peace and showing compassion to one another. As the author said in his interviews, the dark place where he was tortured during the near death experience was not necessarily "hell", as he had not seen fire in the abyss yet. It sounded more like the Valley of Death where he was still able to seek the Light (refer to Psalms 23:4). It showed the importance of our relationship with God - without the Shepherd, we won't be able to find the gate of heaven. The part about the saving of Jews from concentration camp tells us how loving and forgiving God is to mankind. The later part of the book sent an important message about our submission to God's will in our lives as followers. We might face a lot of hardships by walking the path that He leads us, but we'll always find comfort and peace if we have faith. Like the author said, we certainly cannot blame God for every suffering that we experience and forget about all the graces that were granted to us throughout our lives. I learned from the book that if the Spirit is in us, we shall also see goodness in others, as we are all in one, and not judge people by blindly quoting the scriptures. If the readers are interested in NDE and experience of hell, I recommend "Placebo" and "Demons: An Eyewitness Account" by Howard O. Pittman.

Howard Storm's testimony of his near death experience touched me deeply, I cried a few times

while reading the book. A man who unexpectedly fell into death to discover that it's not the end, that his bitter situation was deserved and then to be given the mercy of consolation and teaching. It seems like death is continuation of our state while alive, with the difference it is revealed for its true nature. We go through life most often oblivious to our negative states and selfishness, rarely warmed by the feelings of love and peace in our heart. And when we die, we continue existing into those states. I thought it was so painful how people don't realize when they die, but just continue in their own ways struggling, fighting into our own hell. Yet hope is there, Love is there to turn to it. But we have to turn to it now, it will be too late after we die for then we'll reap the fruits of our lives. If it was a life of pain, emptiness and fights, what can we expect to have as a result?

This man's testimony answered many lingering questions I've held for the majority of my life. It was God that led me to this messenger, to this message, and back to the Messiah Jesus Christ. This was not only Howard Storm's second chance at life but mine as well. To summarize this text "God loves us." And that love is as great and inconceivable as "The One" himself. Please don't take my word(s) for it but read these words for yourself. "And it shall come to pass after this, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy: your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions." Joel 2:28

I'm a skeptic of anyone who says they talked to Jesus first hand..... But I'm entirely taken by Howard Storm's account..... In this world there are too many Joseph Smith's, Jim Jones's, Mohammed's, David Koresh's, Marshall Applewhites, and other self proclaimed prophets who say they received special messages from god and were chosen ones, yet abuse people for their own personal glory and self praise..... However, Howard Storm's story is entirely different, he tells a narrative of pain and humility, and his experience is entirely in line with Christian beliefs. His self description throughout the novel renders him to be the least of mankind, the same as Paul's self description. The experience he describes is embarrassing at times and it gets downright gruesome at one point where he won't even tell us the details of what happened. If you pay attention while reading this book you'll notice he discounts himself and only gives praise to god. His conversion is entirely verifiable, even his wife will agree he was an atheist before and a religious nutcase after his recovery and she was an opponent, which makes her account quite credible. I don't know, I wasn't there when this happened to him..... But I'm learning towards believing the dude. Either way this book is a great read. It's fully within Christian thinking and beliefs. It does not promote Howard at all, but 100 percent promotes God. the writing is a little weak, but the story makes up for it. The only

thing controversial thing about it is when he asked Jesus about the future and Mr storm described seeing a significantly reduced population and lack of technology.....

What a mystery and surprising book this is. It was interesting to hear narrative from an intellectual atheist and to hear about his near death experience. I learned several very important things from his experience and have loaned my copy out to several other friends. I would recommend this book from several view points, but let it suffice to say you won't be disappointed. It was a quick read and VERY interesting!

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