



# Disquiet Time: Rants and Reflections on the Good Book by the Skeptical, the Faithful, and a Few Scoundrels

*Jennifer Grant (Editor), Cathleen Falsani (Editor)*

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## **Disquiet Time: Rants and Reflections on the Good Book by the Skeptical, the Faithful, and a Few Scoundrels**

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**An engaging and hilarious collection that encourages readers to tackle those strange, awkward, worrying, yet endlessly compelling passages of the Bible.** The Bible is full of not-so-precious moments, from murder and mayhem, to sex and slavery. Now, an incredible cast of contributors tackles the parts of the Bible that most excite, frustrate, or comfort, like:

What the heck is the book of Revelation really about? (The answer will surprise you.) How do we come to grips with the Bible's troubling (or seemingly troubling) passages about the role of women?

Why did the artist of the oldest known picture of Jesus intentionally paint him with a wonky eye--and what does it tell us about beauty? DISQUIET TIME was written by and for Bible-loving Christians, agnostics, skeptics, none-of-the-aboves, and people who aren't afraid to dig deep spiritually, ask hard questions, and have some fun along the way.

## **Disquiet Time: Rants and Reflections on the Good Book by the Skeptical, the Faithful, and a Few Scoundrels Details**

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## **From Reader Review Disquiet Time: Rants and Reflections on the Good Book by the Skeptical, the Faithful, and a Few Scoundrels for online ebook**

### **Trish Ryan says**

This is a strong, thought-provoking collection of essays. My favorite part is that the writers deliver on the promise from the introduction, in "not requiring an enemy in order to establish their identity as persons of faith as they read and meditate on the Scriptures." This is rare stuff in faith-based writing, and it makes this book an absolute delight--one can read these essays and simply ponder the questions therein, without feeling drawn into an argument. One of my favorite essays was about the role of icons in worship. I've not thought much about icons, and I appreciated the opportunity. If you're looking for a book to entertain you and encourage your faith in unexpected ways, "Disquiet Time" is a great choice.

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### **Keri Kent says**

This collection of essays was fun to read and enlightening. I bought copies for my 21 year old daughter and my 75 year old mother for Christmas--that's the kind of book it is, and the kind of family I'm proud to be a part of. If you love dogma and easy answers, skip this one. It dives deep in to the questions and curiosity, which I love. Fearlessly addressing questions of faith and doubt, it is perfect for sinners, saints or skeptics (and aren't we all of us all three most days?)

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### **Adam Shields says**

Short review: An unique devotional written by a wide variety of authors focusing on how the bible and/or Christianity can be disquieting. The quality of the writing is pretty good and for a book written by nearly 40 authors, it is pretty even. Topically it is all over the place. Amy Julia Becker (blogger at CT and author) talks about how we all cherry pick verses. Karen Swallow Prior (English Professor and author) writes about how our modern translations tend to leave out or obscure all of the sh\*t in scripture. Caryn Rivadeneira (church staff and author) talks about the scandal of being made in God's image. But the general idea is that scripture and Christianity in general isn't designed to make us feel good and there are lots of time when it pricks us.

My full review is on my blog at <http://bookwi.se/disquiet-time/>

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### **Andy Hickman says**

Jennifer Grant & Cathleen Falsani (eds), "Disquiet Time: Rants and Reflections on the Good Book by the Skeptical, the Faithful, and a Few Scoundrels," (New York: Jericho, 2014).

Refreshingly different reflections on the Christian faith.

Quotes include:

“Foreword” by Eugene H. Peterson  
'Stories are verbal acts of hospitality.' (p.xiii)

“The voices are conspicuous for not requiring an enemy in order to establish their identity as persons of faith as they read and mediate on the Scriptures.” (p.xiv)

“I was tempted to turn to the last chapter and get to the end of the story. I resisted, however, remembering that much of the satisfaction of the conclusion comes from giving my imagination over to the contradictions and ambiguities of the plot.” (p.xv-xvi)

“The Bible: It's Full of Crap.” - Karen Swallow Prior (p24-30)

The Bible has many scatological references. {scatological = study of excrement).

E.g. 'Dung' appears more than forty times in the KJV.

Ex 29:12-14 (KJV)

Lev 8:17; 16:27

Num 19:5

Deut 23:12-13 (ESV) - cover up your excrement.

Judges 3:21-22 (ESV)

1 Ki 18:27

2 Ki 9:36-37 (KJV)

Ezra 6:11 (KJV)

Ps 113:7 (KJV)

Is.36:12 (KJV)

Ezekiel 4:12-15

Phil 3:8 'dung' (KJV)

Saint Augustine: “We are born between feces and urine.”

“SLUT!” - Cathleen Falsani (p.193-199)

Neither Herodias' daughter (mark 6:17-29, Salome' according to Josephus) was not promiscuous.

“Or is Salome, like Mary of Magdalene, a victim of misogynist interpretations of Scripture and cultural bias?” (p195)

“Women: Be Silent?” - Sarah Heath (p297-304)

“As I looked around the 'world' (as churchy people call it), I saw women leading in all areas.” (p298)

“Hellenization and ... Aristotle's understanding of women as inferior.

Aristotle himself was subject to what he learned from his own mentor, Socrates, a philosopher who considered women to be halfway between animals and men.” (p300)

“Many rabbis asserted that because Eve was created second she was inferior and to be ruled and guided by Adam. That logic perplexed me. If such logic plays out, then humankind should be subject to cattle and birds, both of which were created first in the Genesis creation narrative.” (p301)

Paul as Saul persecuted the most influential Christians, he arrested men and women (Acts 8:3; 9:1-2; 22:4-5). Paul's first convert was Lydia.

In his letter to Philippi he writes to two women, Euodia and Syntyche.

Priscilla is acknowledged as a leader of the Corinth church (1 Cor 16:19) and is mentioned before her husband.

In his letter to the Romans he mentions eight female leaders, including Phoebe, who is referred to as a 'deacon', using the masculine form of that word – precisely the same way he describes male church leaders. 1 Cor 11:4-5 is instructions about how women are to pray and prophesy, understanding that women would be doing this regularly.

1 Cor 14:33-36, the word 'silence' (sigao) is the kind of silence required when a room is disorderly.

"The Greatest of These" - Brian D. McLaren

"In my line of work, with someone calling me a heretic or infidel every day or two, it's easy to respond defensively, which usually involves bragging, being arrogant, being rude, seeking personal advantage, being irritable, and keeping an account of how often I have been unfairly reviewed. But in each case, I hear 1 Corinthians 13 reminding me: love isn't like that." (p335) ...more

flag 1 like · Like · see review

May 14, 2015 Patty rated it really liked it

Shelves: 2015, religion, religion-and-science, bible, gospels, jesus, christianity, christian-living, faith, non-fiction

*"May you engage with God's word throughout your life;*

*May you be in community with other people of faith;*

*May you dare to ask tough questions;*

*May you be content not knowing all the answers;*

*May you always be real before God in the joys and sorrows of living;*

*May you be still enough to hear God's voice;*

*May you have the eyes to see God's grace all around you and extend it to others;*

*And may you ever rest in God's immeasurable, unchanging love for you.*

I have trouble writing reviews of collection

...more

flag 1 like · Like · see review

Sep 06, 2014 Beth Peninger rated it really liked it · review of another edition

Thank you to NetGalley and Jericho Books for this free copy. In an exchange for this copy I am giving an honest review.

This is a great book for those that have popped the Christian bubble they had been living in. If you still live

inside the bubble then this book of short essays on faith and God will most likely offend you. I, however, thoroughly enjoyed it.

A grouping of thoughts and ponderings about a life of faith from some very different walks of life. All of them love Jesus but most evangel

...more

flag 1 like · Like · see review

Oct 08, 2014 Jennifer rated it it was amazing

Shelves: read-non-fiction-spiritual

Took me over six months to read this one, as it's made up of short essays that I really wanted to take my time to think about, but I loved it.

It tackles many of the questions I have about the Bible, God, and Christianity that I would never feel comfortable asking in church because many (although, certainly not all, as there are many grace-filled people in church, too) would look at me askance or decide that I was a heretic trouble-maker who shouldn't even bother coming to church if I can't just

...more

flag 1 like · Like · see review

Oct 17, 2014 Bethany rated it it was amazing

Shelves: religious, non-fiction, wheaton-authors

\* I received a digital copy from the publisher via NetGalley for the purposes of this review. \*

Disquiet Time is a very rare book. Most Christian books skirt around the majority of things addressed here, and if they do discuss them, it seems that they are content to just accept things on faith. Disquiet Time, on the other hand, wrestles with hard things and difficult issues. There aren't necessarily any answers here and possibly just increasing questions. But that isn't a bad thing: far from it.

...more

flag 1 like · Like · see review

Dec 16, 2014 Stephanie rated it really liked it

Shelves: religious

Karen Walrond mentioned this on her blog Chookooloonks (I think I've got all the Os!) so I put it on reserve at the library, expecting something fun and interesting. What a gem this collection of short essays is! They're all brief enough to read and consider quickly but also thought-provoking. Some of the writers have serious theology chops and others practitioners rather than preachers, but they all added to the discussion.

Recommend for any interested in religion and even non-denominational sp

...more

flag 1 like · Like · see review

Feb 06, 2018 Jim rated it it was amazing

This is a book that caught my eye as I was glancing through the biblical section at the Manhattan Public Library. I knew nothing about it. But was intrigued by its title and rather bizarre cover. So it stays in the book queue until I finally pick it up. That is great stuff here. There are over 40 essays, most of which pick a pericope or passage that causes pause. I'm not sure I want to turn it in. As faith journeys are explored there is one thing that rings throughout the essays. Unmitigated honesty ...more

flag 1 like · Like · see review

Feb 12, 2015 Laura rated it really liked it

I read this book for a Bible Study at the church I attend. I was at first reluctant to read it, but I was hooked on the introduction! It's a collection of essays from a variety of people, lay and clergy.

The personal narratives of journeys of Faith range from the hysterically funny and irreverent to deeply touching and sincere. There are wonderfully human stories about Christians reconciling their faith with their sexual identity, social class, chronic illness and of issues carried over from childhood.

...more

flag 1 like · Like · see review

Mar 08, 2015 Heidi rated it really liked it

My bible study group (I'm a pastor) at church read this book, as an interlude - a way to read ABOUT reading the Bible, and they really loved it. It's engaging and provocative, although perhaps with a few more references to poop than might be necessary. The authors are diverse in their perspectives and writing styles, and really spoke in powerful ways to my folks, who are of various ages and ethnic backgrounds.

flag 1 like · Like · see review

Oct 30, 2014 Abbie Watters added it

Shelves: religious

This was a series of vignettes about the status of the church in relation to folks who are "outside" our current definition of "Christian." Written by many different authors, some are first person stories, and some are written from the perspective of clergy who serve the "least, last, and lost." Each chapter stands alone, and this book makes an excellent daily meditation resource for those of us who are focused on reaching out from under our steeples to the world.

flag 1 like · Like · see review

Oct 20, 2014 Rachel rated it it was amazing

This book made me look at passages in the Bible in new and interesting ways. I've been hearing and reading the Bible my whole life, and I've loved reading these new perspectives - they are giving me a lot to think about. It is always good to find ways to keep the Bible fresh, and this book does a wonderful job with that! It is well-written and thought-provoking whether you are new to the Bible or have read it/heard its stories more times than you can say.

flag 1 like · Like · see review

Sep 07, 2015 Cynthia rated it liked it

Shelves: 2015-reads, ebook, non-fiction-christianity, own-a-copy

"May you engage with God's word throughout your life;

May you be in community with other people of faith;

May you dare to ask tough questions;

May you be content not knowing all the answers;

May you always be real before God in the joys and sorrows of living;

May you be still enough to hear God's voice;

May you have the eyes to see God's grace all around you and extend it to others;  
And may you ever rest in God's immeasurable, unchanging love for you.

flag 1 like · Like · see review

Jun 24, 2015 Ruth Chatlien rated it really liked it

I really like the premise of this book: reflections on nonfundamentalist ways of interacting with the Bible. But I found the essays uneven. Some were very moving or thought-provoking. Others not so much. Maybe it's one of those books in which different essays would speak to me at different times in my life. I debated between giving it a 3 and a 4, and decided on a 4 because a number of the pieces did strike home.

flag 1 like · Like · see review

May 18, 2018 Carol rated it liked it

Shelves: at-the-library, spiritual, non-fiction

Uneven, as any book of this sort will be. After all, not everyone reading it will agree with, be moved by, or love, love, love every essay. However, there was lots here that resonated with me, and one (\*Wherever Two or Three are Gathered\* by Ian Morgan Cron) that left me sobbing. Glad I took the time to read this.

flag 1 like · Like · see review

Oct 14, 2016 John Benson rated it it was amazing

I liked this collection of essays/devotionals because they reflect how I feel I am religiously, often in turn both very skeptical and faithful. These essays are written with an honesty that I often find missing from Christian literature. I liked the mix of reverence and irreverence and learned a lot from the variety of viewpoints.

flag 1 like · Like · see review

Nov 05, 2014 Brenda Funk rated it really liked it

This book was wonderful to read. Lots of variety, many different topics addressed by good writers and good thinkers. I took my time reading it because it was too good to rush through. I found one chapter at a time enough to absorb and think about.

flag 1 like · Like · see review

Dec 02, 2014 Brenda Seefeldt rated it it was amazing

Loved this book. It's a compilation of essays from thinking Christians take on difficult parts of the Bible. I didn't agree with everyone. I didn't like every contributor (far from it). But I was challenged. I learned deeper.

flag 1 like · Like · see review

Jan 18, 2015 Chloe rated it really liked it

It's incredibly reassuring that I'm not alone in the fact that I have doubts and questions surrounding the christian faith. I enjoyed reading all of the essays and discovered that I related to most of the writers in this compilation.

flag 1 like · Like · see review

Oct 22, 2014 Diane rated it it was amazing

Shelves: devotional

Excellent collection of essays that offer no simple answers and does not expect complete agreement from the reader.

flag 1 like · Like · see review

Oct 22, 2015 Keryn rated it really liked it

Bite sized essays from different authors of their perspectives on their Christian faith. Some were enlightening. Easy to read.

flag 1 like · Like · see review

Oct 29, 2014 Cara rated it really liked it

I enjoyed this book. Good unpacking of "quiet time." Review here: <http://www.littledidsheknow.net/2014/...>  
flag 1 like · Like · see review

Aug 02, 2018 Heather Moore rated it liked it

Shelves: 2018

With 40+ contributors, this was all over the place as, I'm sure, it was designed to be. There are definitely some loose theological cannons shooting around but hearing from perspectives different than one's own encourages good critical thinking. If you see this one in the book store or library, skip to the last one, "The Greatest of These" by Brian D. McLaren, and read it to yourself. So, so good and I'll be reflecting on that one for a long time to come.

flag Like · see review

Jul 15, 2014 Jennifer Grant rated it it was amazing · (Review from the author)

1 like · Like

E. G. rated it liked it

Mar 22, 2015

Susan Seaman rated it it was amazing

Aug 11, 2018

Theo Grant-Funck rated it it was amazing

Jun 23, 2018

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## Denny says

I was disappointed with this essay anthology. The misnamed subtitle led me to believe *Disquiet Time* would be a somewhat balanced collection of arguments for and against Christianity, and it was not that. If any of the contributors are true skeptics, none showed it here, or at least showed no skepticism of the truth of Christianity; all these authors appear to be committed believers. I gave it two stars instead of one because the writing is not bad. Most of the essays are well-written, heartfelt, and either poignant or humorous, and I suspect that practicing religious readers will enjoy it.

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