



## Paradise: A Divine Comedy

*Glenn Myers*

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You think you've got problems.

My favourite Afghan restaurant closed down. My girlfriend left. A bad-tempered lawyer named Keziah crashed her car into mine. And we couldn't even *die* properly.

The afterlife turned out to be a cage in the heavens where we lived with all our memories, and where evil spirits wanted us to build a perfect life together. Then they could use us to market-test new products.

Or, we could rot eternally in the yellow sleet outside our cage. Which honestly was tempting. But then a snake with a personality disorder offered us a way out..

*Paradise - a Divine Comedy* fearlessly crosses life, death, heavenly dimensions and extreme Afghan cuisine and faces our greatest problem - ourselves.

### Reviews:

"Hitchhikers Guide meets Screwtape meets Pilgrims Progress meets the Discworld!" (Phil Grasham)

'...absolutely loved it. A hysterical surrealist take on what is out there after life on earth, or next to life on earth, or simultaneous with life on earth, or whatever. A story of Gods in kilts, crystal clear memories, and walls made of our pixelated fears. Delightful. (Jeannette M, Goodreads.com)

Sometimes you want to hit the main character on the back of the head and tell him to stop being a wuss, but how would you react if you had to build a paradise controlled by some used-car-salesman-style gods? If you like quirky and surreal stories about the afterlife, then I would highly recommend Paradise. (Katie Webb, Goodreads.com)

What a great book! Loved the characters, the creativity, the dialogue, the imaginative idea of evil spirits keeping humans as pets .... a delightfully comic but definitely insightful look into the human psyche and soul. It's a mark of a good book (for me, at least) when I look forward to picking it up again to read and am slow to put it down. I loved every aspect of it. (Susan Sutton, author)

### An interview with Glenn Myers

Q. So what is this book like and what books do you like the most?

A. Off-beat, quirky. British humour I guess. About the afterlife or at least about near-death experiences and the soul.

Q. Why this subject?

A. What are we like on the inside? If your soul was like a landscape, what would it look like? How would it change? What would be attacking it or wearing it down? I thought it would be a lot of fun to picture that.

Q. And you get to ask big questions?

A. I think the best comedy does. Life, death, love, redemption: all those, but handled lightly. I see comic fiction like a ridge walk on a mountain range -- scary drops each side, but a carefree stroll on the top.

Q. With two warring characters at the heart?

A. Three actually. The main protagonist Jamie is at war with Keziah the girl who crashed into him and so sent them both to the afterlife. If he's smug, laid-back and bone idle, she's spiky, focussed and driven. They just don't get on. There's no possible world, living or dead, where they could ever get on. Yet they have to work together. And hovering in the background is Jamie's ex-girlfriend Caroline, who he's completely failed to love and she's left him. So they're all lost souls. And of course the stress of being dead, of your soul exposed, and of being experimented on by evil spirits. Such wonderful fun to write!

Q. There's a lot of food mentioned in the books: Afghan (*murtabak*), Indian (for example, *roti prata*), Singaporean Chinese (Hainanese Chicken Rice) and Malay (*Mee Goreng*, *Laksa*, *Nasi Lemak*). Have you eaten all these foods?

A. Yes. It's important -- vital research.

## **Paradise: A Divine Comedy Details**

Date : Published June 21st 2010 by Glenn Myers

ISBN : 9780956501004

Author : Glenn Myers

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Genre : Fantasy, Science Fiction, Dystopia, Humor, Modern



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## From Reader Review Paradise: A Divine Comedy for online ebook

### Katie Webb says

I also won Paradise in the goodreads competition...and I am really glad that I did. I didn't *love* the first chapter since it threw a bit too much weird at you all at once (penguins which pull your soul around are an example). After that, the story got going and was really enjoyable! Sometimes you want to hit the main character on the back of the head and tell him to stop being a wuss, but how would you react if you had to build a paradise controlled by some used-car-salesman-style gods? If you like quirky and surreal stories about the afterlife, then I would highly recommend Paradise.

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### Jeannette M says

I won this book from this site and absolutely loved it. A hysterical surrealist take on what is out there after life on earth, or next to life on earth, or simultaneous with life on earth, or whatever. A story of Gods in kilts, crystal clear memories, and walls made of our pixelated fears. Delightful.

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### Dick Davies says

I loved this book! Sure it was weird - but it was fun, made me laugh, made me want to try afghan food, made me think.

Plus pink floyd got a mention.

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### Abigail Cossette Ryan says

A divine comedy of Lewisian flavor. Thoughtful and thought provoking, at times profound.

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### Moniplazola says

interesting idea but kinda fell flat. would not recommend

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### Laura Simpson says

The beginning was rather confusing but as you go on into the book there is something that keeps making you read on, I wasn't too happy with the ending as it was rather confusing and I feel so much more could have been done with it. I love the imagination within this book, with dumbo and the pengumb - hope I have spelt that right!

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## **David King says**

Review originally posted on my Blog: Books & Things

Paradise - A Divine Comedy by Glenn Myers is a comic fantasy novel, written in a manner that is reminiscent of many British comic authors such as Robert Rankin, Terry Pratchett or Douglas Adams.

The story itself is set around web designer Jamie and criminal lawyer Keziah who, after being involved in a car crash, end up heading to the afterlife together. Once there, they get captured by some spirits who seem intent on forcing them to live in an artificial paradise in an attempt to trial a new form of spiritual worship. The story follows Jamie and Keziah's experiences in this artificial paradise as they face off against each other and the spirits who are holding them captive.

The humour and wit that the author has used in the book is there to try and enhance and complement the serious themes being discussed and it does work to an extent. For example, the wit and banter that is present throughout the novel did make me smile and laugh, especially the discussions between Jamie and Caroline who was basically a self imagined version of his ex girlfriend. However, as the story progressed I have to admit that I began to find it harder to pick up the novel and finish it as the theological elements of the novel became more important to the plot which required me to really try and grasp the points being made. Then again this was probably my own fault as I read the final parts of the book after taking part in a 24 hour read-a-thon!

In regards to the characters, I found it quite hard to dislike Jamie even though he was self-absorbed, a coward and selfish. I think these traits actually increased the level at which the reader could be amused as they were utilised cleverly by the author to create entertaining scenes between him and the other characters. I actually don't think any of the other characters are really developed in as good a detail as him, even Keziah who is one of the other main characters. They all mainly seem to be there as different foils for Jamie to bounce his wits against.

Overall, this was a funny and amusing story and I did enjoy the humorous elements, however I struggled a little bit to keep going through the theological elements. Basically, I believe that this book will probably appeal to people that like the humour of Douglas Adams and Terry Pratchett but also want to read something with a deeper underlying meaning.

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## **Ruth Harding says**

I really enjoyed reading Paradise. I loved the characters, especially the relationship (or not) between Jamie and Keziah. The plot was great and I even laughed out loud at points. I would recommend reading Paradise.

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## **Glenn Myers says**

Loved it, but then I wrote it... I think I am writing this in the wrong part of Goodreads

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**Stewart says**

So hilariously funny! I've already started reading the next one. I would highly recommend this to just about anyone.

... how has this not got more reviews?!

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